PNP closes case against cop linked to Pentagon gang

STORY ON PAGE A2

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DEFENSOR: "A professional soldier even if he's a brother of an opposition figure."

Air Force chief seen as Cimatu successor

By Carlito Pablo

JUST when everybody thought his military career could no longer soar because he is a relative of a feisty opposition figure identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor may yet fly to greater heights.

Defensor, younger brother of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, is President Macapagal-Arroyo's choice as the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, according to Malacañang sources.

"He (Defensor) is a professional and he has proven it throughout his career," a Palace source said. "PGMA (the President) also respects seniority."

Defensor is the most senior of the six three-star generals from among whom the President, according to Ms Macapagal herself, would choose the replacement of outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu.

Included in the shortlist were Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, vice chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Army commander; Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Navy flag officer in command; and Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief.

The Palace source denied suggestions that the appointment of Defensor was part of the administration's plan, if any, to court his sister.

"It (appointment of Defensor)

AIR/A17

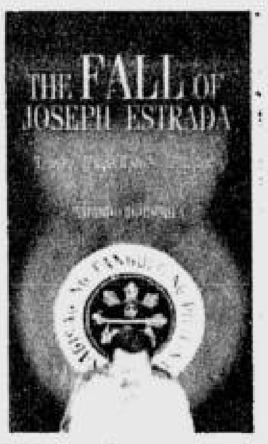
Doronila bestseller wins top book award

By Agnes Donato

FIRST, a bestseller. Now, an award-winning book.

For its overall excellence in content, editing, design, production and printing, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," a book by INQUIRER editorial consultant Amando Doronila, won the Gintong Aklat Award in the social science category on Friday night.

"This is really unexpected. I'm so surprised," said Doronila, who described himself as "a gatecrasher" at the awarding ceremony.



PDI consultant turns Estrada's misfortune into a bestseller

"I'm not really in the book writing circuit. The other books I had written were 'mainly academic," he said.

Co-published by INQUIRER Publishing and Anvil Publishing Inc., "The Fall" recounts behind-the-scenes events in the Edsa II uprising based on interviews with over 40 major players.

The book is now on its seventh printing and has sold 10,000 copies, according to Anvil publishing manager Karina Bolasco.

Doronila said that he used the works of Arnold Toynbee and other great historians and biographers as models for writing his book.

"History is about people and details. In writing history, you

DORONILA/A18

CHILDREN of illegal Filipino migrants manage to smile in spite of what happened to their houses along the shore of Sandakan, Sabah. Malaysian authorities razed the houses of the migrants to force them to leave.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Malaysia welcomes Central Asians

By Dennisonde Selena Baling
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SANDAKAN, Malaysia—While Malaysia is driving away illegal Filipino and Indonesian migrants, it is encouraging migrants from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

The populations of these three Central Asian countries are overwhelmingly Muslim, although most of the Filipinos and Indonesians being kicked out of Malaysia are also Muslims.

Malaysia has blamed the illegal migrants for rising crime.

John (not his real name), a taxi driver, said Malaysians disliked Filipinos from Sulu, "because they are Abu Sayyaf."

"How many times they kill taxi drivers? If it's Filipinos, it's bad," he said. But "not generally," he added. "I also have Filipino friends and they are very kind."

Boy, a bellboy, agreed with the taxi driver. "To tell you the truth, they are bad. They do anything bad to us Malaysians that even if our government is doing everything to make their lives good, they do bad to us. That is why our government is sick and tired of them."

But he has some Filipino friends, whom he described as kind. "Try going to the market over there. Those who sell the fish are good Filipinos. They are kind-hearted," Boy said.

MALAYSIA/ 17

State has right to rectify onerous contracts

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has thrown the weight of her authority behind the review of the agreements with the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) to build and operate Terminal 3 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The President issued a statement on Saturday, saying that a "systematic and objective" review found that the contract was "onerous and disadvantageous" to the Filipino people. The review was conducted by Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, presidential adviser for strategic projects.

The government's contract with Piatco has been under fire, prompting the President to commission Climaco to review the contracts. Based on the review, the President detailed the "principal onerous changes" made on the contract, which the Ramos administration originally awarded to Piatco. The contract underwent several changes during the Estrada administration.

Since the terminal issue involves a complex transaction, this article will focus, for the time being, on 1) the right of the State to intervene and rectify contracts it perceives to be disadvantageous to public interest, and 2) attempts to throw a smokescreen around the onerous provisions of the agreements that the government was setting the stage for handing over the terminal to unnamed private parties. Other issues will be examined in future articles.

The "onerous changes" that the President mentioned include:

1) Piatco is to charge a terminal fee of $20, nearly twice the current fee and significantly higher than the fees other Asean countries are charging.

2) Piatco is given a monopoly on operation in Luzon, with the consequence of restricting the development of Clark and other airports in Luzon.

3) Monopoly to operate and

STATE/A18

PIATCO DEAL

Climaco: Naia 3 won't open Nov. 26

By Carlito Pablo
and Juliet Javellana

IT MAY be 97 percent complete, but the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will not open for business on Nov. 26.

Presidential adviser for strategic projects Gloria Tan Climaco said over the weekend that the Cheng group, which owns 60 percent of Naia 3 concessionaire Philippine International Air Terminals Co., was using this date to block negotiations between the government and its German partners.

"The strategy of the Chengs is to say that the airport will be finished on Nov. 26 and their strategy is to call us in default," Climaco said in a briefing in Malacañang on Friday.

The German government-owned Fraport AG and the government are in negotiations over a possible $400-million buyout of the build-operate-transfer project.

"On Nov. 26, they will not open," Climaco said, noting that Fraport itself informed the government that "it's impossible" to have the airport operational at that date.

Climaco said that it would take a minimum of five months to complete a systems-wide testing of the airport before it gets the nod of the US Federal Aviation Administration, the benchmark before other non-American airlines would allow their carriers to use the terminal.

Climaco also said that it would take six to nine months to "outfit all spaces" required by international airlines, not to mention those of the country's own immigration and aviation

CLIMACO/A18

Naia 3 solves problem of well-wishers

By Abigail Ho

SET aside the legal and diplomatic wrangling, and even its critics would agree that the controversial Naia Terminal 3 looks set to become a byword in international airports.

A terminal that is four times bigger than Naia 1, spanning 1.4 kilometers from one end to the other. An airport that can accommodate up to 28 aircraft at a time, with 20 main gates and eight remote gates. And the capacity to handle 13 million passengers a year.

"We have ample space so passengers won't feel cramped and get squeezed into a small area," said Moises Tolentino, spokesperson of Naia 3 concessionaire Philippine International Air Terminals Co.

There are 140 check-in counters, compared with 84 in Naia 1. There are also 110 immigration counters—60 in the departure area and 50 in the arrival area—that should eliminate the need for long queues.

NAIA/A18

LIFE IS FOR THE LIVING!

They're sick, tired of 9/11 reminders

RALEIGH, North Carolina—Dare she say it? Donna Nobles is fed up with being made to relive Sept. 11.

The elementary school teacher's aide shared the fear Americans felt that day. She understands the need of families to memorialize loved ones who had died.

But she thinks the continuing handwringing is radiating an air of weakness to our enemies. And she says it's

THEY'RE/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies..

SOURCE: PAGASA

BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/02/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

PNP closes case vs Dangane

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE National Police will not revive its investigation of Senior Supt. William Marohombsar Dangane for his alleged links to the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Dangane, who has been appointed police director of Sarangani province, was a cousin of the late leader of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang Faisal Marohombsar.

Marohombsar was slain on Aug. 25 in Magallanes, Cavite, by police who were out to rescue a young kidnap victim and her nanny.

PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the administrative case against Dangane had been dropped by his predecessor, Gen. Leandro Mendoza, and he was leaving it at that.

Ebdane recalled that the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) had recommended closing the investigation, and Mendoza had approved it.

"It went through the process and the former PNP chief approved it, and we have to respect that. So as far as the PNP is concerned, the case has been dropped," Ebdane said.

The DIDM had looked into the administrative liabilities of Dangane and Senior Supt. Efren Alcuizar after they had been tagged as protectors of the Pentagon gang by some of the group's own members.

But the DIDM dropped the probe for "lack of merit."

Following the uproar over Dangane's recent assignment to Sarangani despite the allegations against him, DIDM Director Lucas Managuelod had said last week the PNP would revive the administrative case against the police officer.

Ebdane, for his part, had seemed to agree with him. "What we're doing is compiling all the documents to find out what should be done. In this case, we'll be guided by the documents that we have," he had said.

But while the administrative case has been dismissed against him, Dangane is still facing charges before the Ombudsman on Military Affairs for the kidnapping and illegal detention of Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio, daughter of a prominent car dealer in Davao City, Managuelod said.

Bonifacio, 25, and two others were seized by armed men while on their way to work in Davao City on Jan. 3.

They were rescued by police five days later. The cops also arrested seven of their suspected kidnappers.

It was not known how Dangane was involved in the kidnapping of the young Bonifacio.

Dangane has denied the allegations against him.

Zuño faces graft charge

A GRAFT case has been filed against Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño for allegedly influencing an estafa case filed by a Batangas cooperative in which his wife is a director.

Zuño, a candidate for the next Ombudsman, dismissed the charge as baseless. He said he had acted on the estafa complaint based on the evidence presented.

The respondent in the estafa case was Joy Valenzuela-Gutierrez, who was accused of defrauding the Batangas Health Multi-Purpose Cooperative of "millions of pesos."

The principal complainant for the cooperative was Dr. Marcelino Malabanan. Zuño's wife, Dr. Eden Zuño, is a member of the cooperative board.

The complainant against Zuño was Aren Gutierrez, husband of the accused in the estafa case.

Norman Bordadora

Drug sweeps to target depressed Metro areas

By TJ Burgonio

AGENTS of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) are poised to raid five areas in Metro Manila that are believed to be havens of drug use.

PDEA officials said this was in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent order to crack down on drug traffickers.

The officials declined to identify the targeted areas, but police sources described them as "highly populated and depressed communities" in Quezon City and Manila.

Peddlers and users of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), the most rampantly abused substance nationwide, troop to these places daily, the sources said.

The areas were identified during the PDEA's two-day workshop last week at police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

"There should be special operations in these five hotbeds," President Macapagal said at the close of the workshop on Saturday.

The President likewise directed the PDEA to neutralize 11 international and 215 domestic drug rings identified during the workshop.

PDEA records as of June 30 showed that the incidence of drug trafficking and abuse remains high in 3,588 of the country's 42,061 barangays.

Surprisingly, Metro Manila was among the regions least affected by the problem, according to the records. Topnotcher areas in the PDEA list were Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas, and Ilocos, in that order.

The agency has placed the number of regular drug users in the country at 1.8 million; occasional users, 1.6 million, and drug pushers, 15,204.

Meanwhile, PDEA Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido said he has ordered an accounting of all confiscated prohibited drugs, following reports that an undetermined amount in the custody of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force was missing.

He issued the instructions to "all agencies in charge of seized drugs." These included the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, clerks of court and task forces.

Avenido said reports of custodians and operating agencies, and even newspaper accounts of drug raids, were now being consolidated.

"Any individual who can't account for seized drugs placed in his custody would face serious charges, and could be sentenced to life imprisonment," Avenido said.

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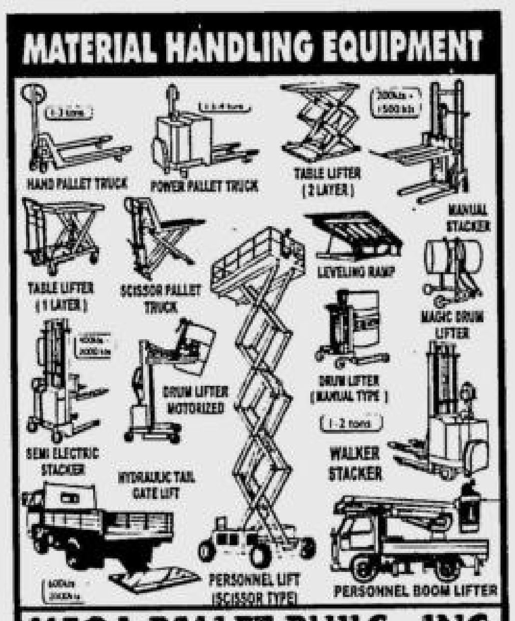

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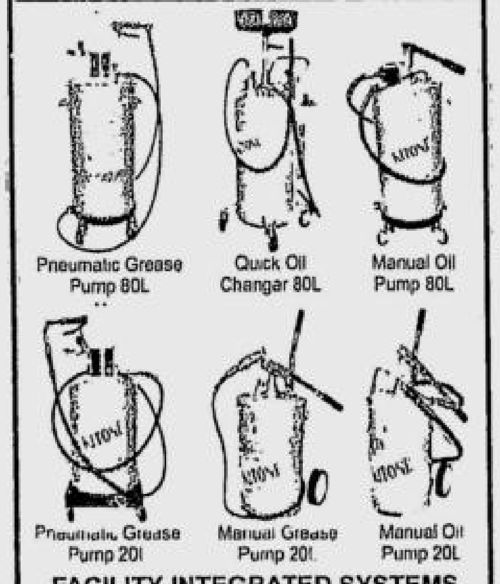

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Another "ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS MEETING" will be held on October 9th at the Korea Export Plaza of COEX, Seoul. All requested products of Seoul from different companies will be introduced to foreign visitors.
The "KOREA ELECTRONICS SHOW" will be held from October 8 to 12th at COEX, Seoul. Products to be featured are electronics items such as parts and components, computer hardware and software, gaming, household appliances, measuring and testing eqpt., satellite systems, video and mobile electronics and other telecommunication equipments
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Not now, GMA says on Sabah claim

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday rejected calls to revive immediately the Philippines' claim over Sabah, a dormant diplomatic issue stirred anew by the inhumane treatment of thousands of Filipinos shipped back from the territory.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to meet with leaders of Congress early this week on the country's position on the Sabah issue. But she had said earlier resurrection of the territorial claim "must be delinked from the issue of deportees."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said reviving the country's claim at this time would only complicate the situation for at least 50,000 more Filipinos still in the disputed region.

"Let's concentrate on what is do-able," Bunye said over dzMM radio.

Temporary

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to a moratorium on the expulsion of Filipinos following a phone conversation with President Macapagal late Friday.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said yesterday this was just a "temporary respite." He urged the President to convene the National Security Council, because the issue "involves security matters."

The expelled Filipinos had been living in Sabah for more than 20 years, Gonzalez pointed out. "Why a crackdown now? Is Malaysia trying to signal something to us?"

Incensed by the plight of the returnees over the past few days, lawmakers have called for the revival of the country's claim over Sabah.

Backburner

But Foreign Secretary Blas Ople criticized politicians who stirred up the call, accusing them of "exacerbating the crisis for their own interests."

Bunye stressed the Philippines has not dropped its claim to Sabah. He said it was put on the "backburner" during the term of President Fidel Ramos, following the recommendation of the Legislative-Executive Advisory Council (Ledac) on Sabah.

A Philippine mission is scheduled to leave for Malaysia today to attend to the requirements of undocumented Filipinos there. ***With Christine O. Avendaño, and reports from AFP and Reuters***

Most Asians don't back US on Iraq

SINGAPORE—A poll of lawmakers, Middle East watchers and chief executives in 10 Asian cities showed most were against US military action against Iraq, the Singapore Sunday Times said.

The newspaper poll of 97 people showed more than two-thirds did not support military action to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"The reasons for attacking are not clear," said Tokyo-based Middle East watcher Keiko Sakai.

Half of those questioned said anti-US sentiments were rising because of Washington's unilateral approach.

"Any action to remove Saddam Hussein militarily will be based primarily on American national interests," said Rep. Apolinario Lozada of the Philippines. *AFP*

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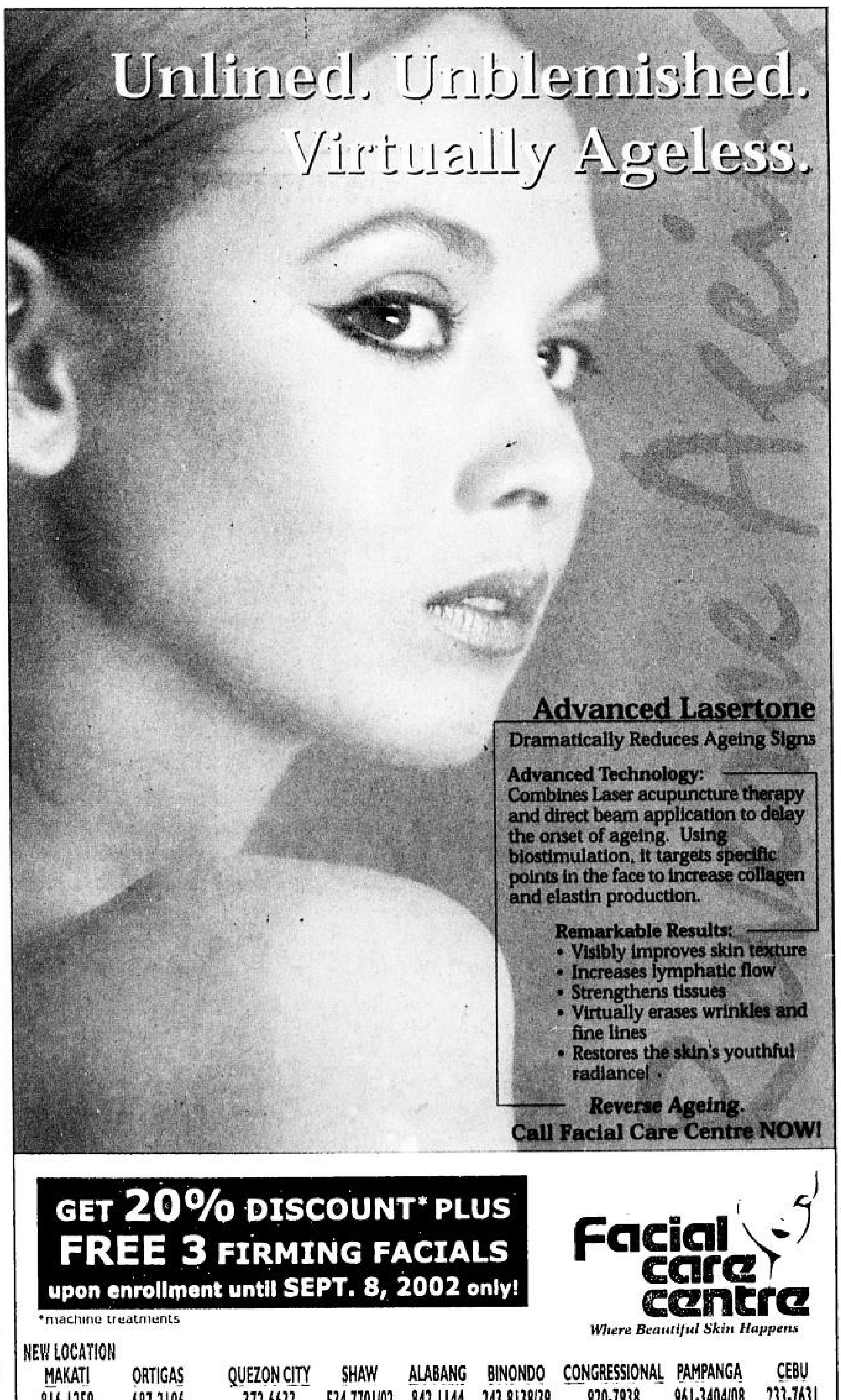
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They're sick and tired of Sept. 11 reminders

From page A1

time to stop.

"Enough is enough," Nobles, 47, says as she prowls the stands at Raleigh's Farmers Market. "We need to realize that life is for the living."

Nobles is far from alone in voicing frustration—even vehement resentment in some corners—at what many feel is an unhealthy fixation on things 9/11.

Perhaps some are jaded at seeing entrepreneurs make money on T-shirts, hats, anything with the FDNY (Fire Department, New York) logo.

Maybe they're sick of digging deep to make donations, only to hear victim families say the money didn't reach them or that they didn't get enough.

Or it could be post-traumatic stress, the crush of pain and sorrow simply too much to bear.

Callous though some sentiments might sound, mental health experts say "9/11 fatigue" is as natural a response as the waves of patriotism and grief that swept the nation after terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Americans have a hard time living with uncertainty," says psychologist Debra Condren, who has offices in New York and San Francisco. "We want closure. We want quick fixes. In this case, there is no resolution."

An end to all the 9/11 talk is what Brian Pilant craves. "Shut up about it!" the 28-year-old bagpiper from Tempe, Arizona, grumbles when asked about the attacks, plugging his ears with his fingers for emphasis.

When the attacks occurred, Pilant was as shaken as any other American and, like family and friends, was glued to the television.

"I thought it was the end of the world at first," he says. Now, he says all the sorrow is getting counterproductive.

"I'm not sick of hearing about things that we didn't know that we know now," he says. "I'm sick of the whining and that 'What about the children?' sort of mentality.

"We need to drop it. Talking about things that we can do and take care of, OK. But stuff we can't do anything about—like the fact that it happened—we can't change that."

Necessary

Others, though, say the continued reminders are necessary to avoid becoming complacent.

"Living in Columbus, Ohio, you feel safeguarded in a way and that's not good, because we're not," says Bridget Molloy, 39, who still takes time to read victim profiles when The New York Times publishes them.

"As Americans we have very short memories," Molloy says. "My concern is that people will slip back into a comfort zone. That's when we'll get caught again."

But some Americans feel they have a nasty habit of overdoing some things and, perhaps, not doing enough about others.

In Evansville, Indiana, bank security guard Leslie Barnett notes what he sees as the unfairness of the attention and money given to the Sept. 11 victims and their families.

"What about people killed in (bombings in) Oklahoma or Africa?" says Barnett, 65. "Or what about the servicemen killed whose families just received military life insurance? Somewhere, you've got to draw the line."

Others are afraid to vent their frustrations. They worry how it will sound if they remind people that not all firefighters and cops are heroes, or say out loud that they're weary of widows' tearful interviews.

New Yorker Mark Prindle is one who says it pains him to say so—but he's tired of hearing about Sept. 11. He worked on the trade center's 104th floor six years ago, and went down to gaze at the smoking rubble after the attacks.

Now, he feels the barrage of news stories and remembrances is making it impossible for the victims' families to overcome their grief.

Event cheapened

And in the end, Prindle says, all the attention cheapens the very event it is intended to memorialize.

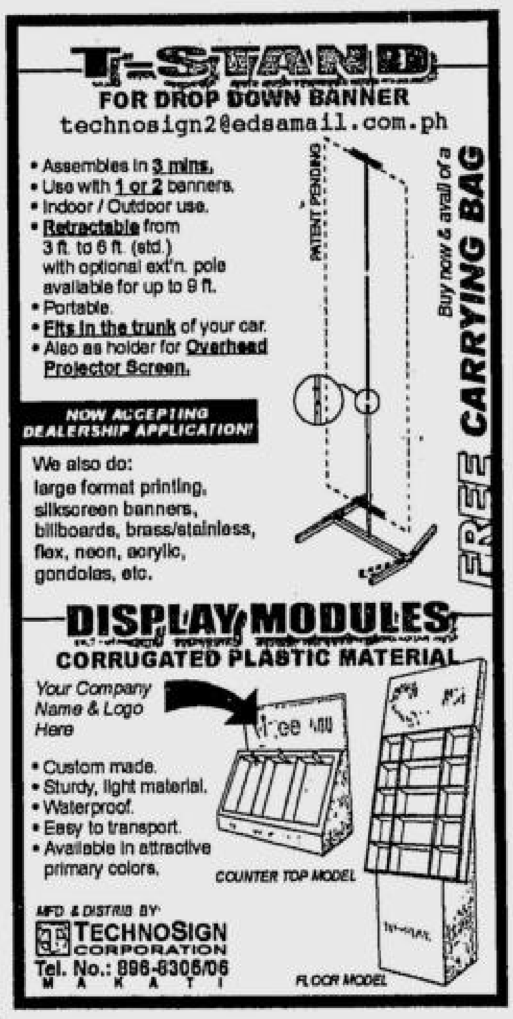
"Some people here were worried that they might make a national holiday of it," the 29-year-old public relations specialist says.

"It'll just be like Memorial Day, where it's like, 'All right. A long weekend. 9-1-1. Let's go to the beach.'"

Sam Sears, an associate professor at the University of Florida Health Science Center and a licensed clinical psychologist, says some people might be feeling what is known as "compassion fatigue."

"Being empathetic to somebody else takes a lot of work. And, honestly, this is such an event that has evoked such empathy and such compassion that is very difficult for people to feel comfortable," Sears says.

AP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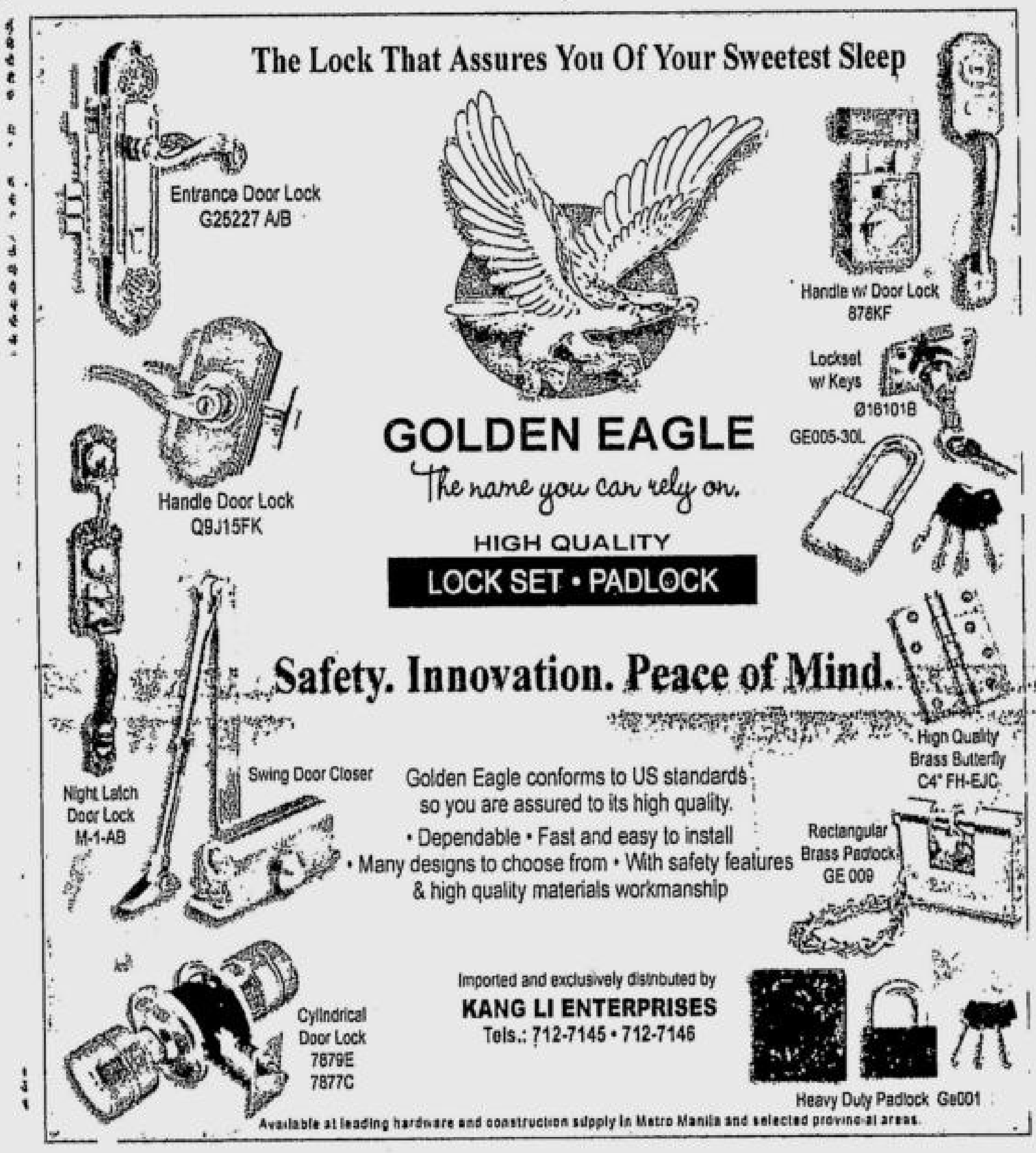
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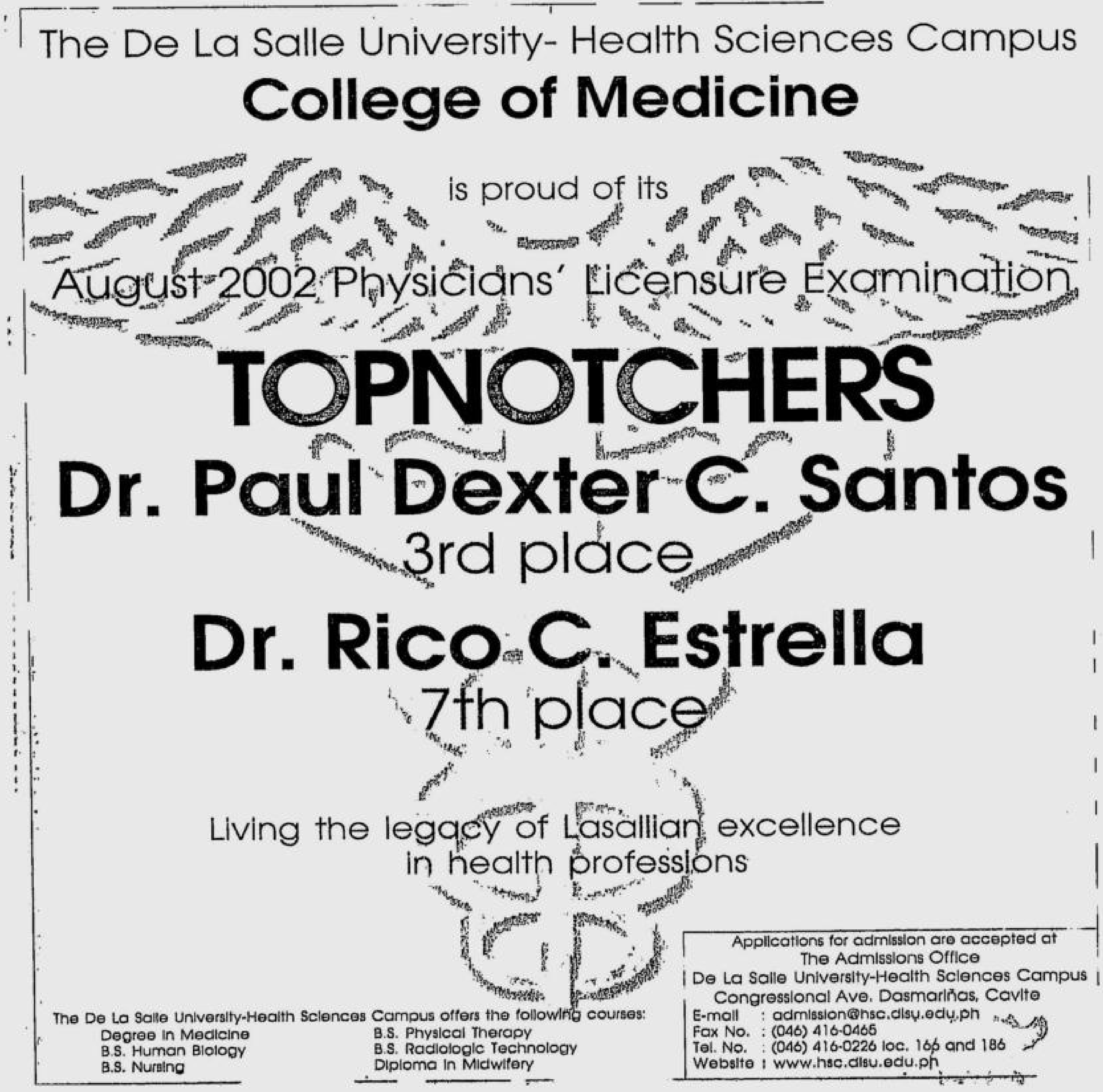
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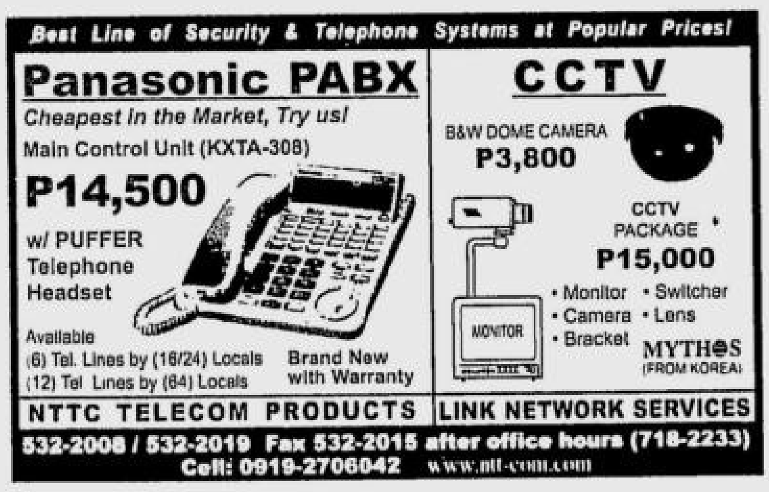
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions/resolutions were promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following cases on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
5061-5062 (Decision)	Isaac Quinones vs. Ernesto Nemia	
	Isaac Quinones Antonio Rinon	February 5, 2001
4434 (Resolution)	Roberto Obas et al vs. Roberto Conahap et al.	January 9, 2001

Counsels and parties to these cases, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
5061-5062	Atty. Friel Rosales	Lomeda Subdivision San Felipe, Naga City
4434	Roberto Conahap	Brgy. Libertad Escalante Negros Occidental
	Manuel Yungue	Brgy. Libertad Escalante Negros Occidental

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

August 29, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

September 2 & 9, 2002 – Inquirer

6M seniors bat for more benefits

By Rocky Nazareno

MORE than six million senior citizens are asking for increased pensions, swift sanctions against business establishments that violate the Senior Citizens Act (SCA), and an expanded assistance program to help them cope with the hard times, according to opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Angara, SCA author and principal sponsor, has been holding talks with leaders of the senior citizens community in preparation for the filing of a bill that would increase assistance to the elderly.

He is seeking more health benefits and discounts on basic commodities, including kerosene and cooking gas.

The original law grants senior citizens a 20 percent discount on transport fares, as well as medicine and food purchases.

Discontinued

Officials of the Federation of Senior Citizens' Association of the Philippines told Angara that the regular pension increases started during the term of former President Joseph Estrada had been "discountinued."

Salvador Villareal, president of the group's National Capital Region chapter, said this has deprived them of additional funds for their basic survival.

In a statement, Angara lamented that there had been no full implementation of the SCA as "scores" of drugstores, taxi companies and food outlets continue to deny senior citizens the 20 percent discount provided by law.

He vowed to discuss the problem with drug and transport companies. In turn, he said, the senior citizens "pledged to carry out a national crusade for good and honest government."

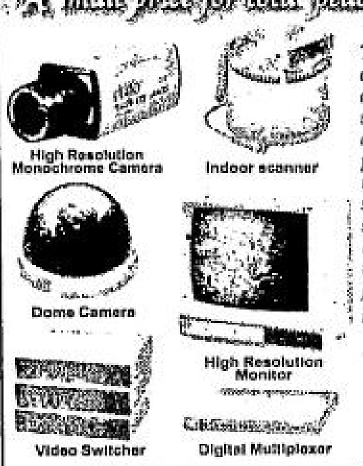
Pre-need

The opposition lawmaker also took up the cudgels for the P38-billion pre-need industry. In another statement yesterday, Angara cautioned against stifling the business, in view of the proposed special agency to oversee it.

What was needed, he said, were safeguards to make sure investments were not misused by pre-need company owners.

Angara said either the Insurance Commission or the Securities and Exchange Commission could supervise the companies' operations.

"(The industry's) huge potential as a mobilizer of domestic resoures and development funds has yet to be fully tapped," Angara said.



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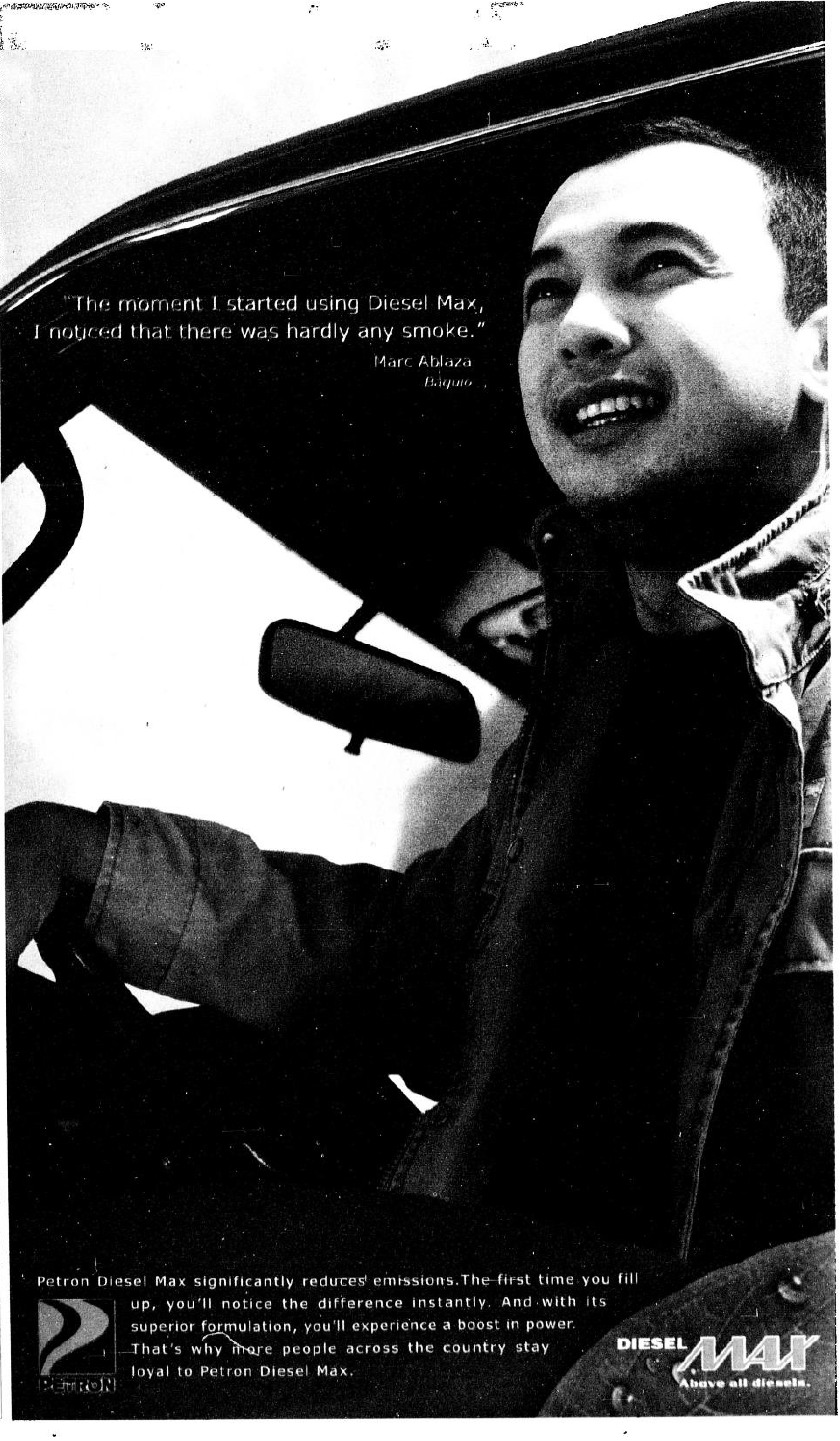
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SCARBOROUGH CATCH

14 Sino fishermen held

THE PHILIPPINE Navy rescued and took custody of 14 Chinese fishermen who claimed to be taking shelter in the disputed Scarborough Shoal on Saturday, the military said yesterday.

A Navy patrol ship conducting sovereignty patrol on the shoal picked up the Chinese who were in four boats, Navy spokesperson Lt. Carlo Sabare said.

"We had to rescue them because they were aboard light fishing vessels and were being hit by huge waves," he said.

The Chinese fishermen's mother ship was not spotted in the area, however. It could have sped away after sighting the Navy patrol ship, Sabare said.

The Navy troops found seven sacks of live coral and seaweeds in the boats. The items were "photographed and properly documented" by the crew, the military said.

The fishermen, believed to be from Hainan, were brought to the Sangley Point naval base in Cavite.

They are to be turned over to the Chinese Embassy.

The incident followed reports last week that Vietnamese troops and poachers had intruded into the Parola islet in the Spratly chain of islands claimed by the Philippines. The military has denied the reports.

The Worldwide Fund-Phil. environment group, meanwhile, has protested the impending release of 117 Chinese earlier caught poaching in the waters of the Tubbataha Reef in Palawan, calling the move "a travesty."

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople last week requested the release of the 117 Chinese caught last February, as an "act of goodwill" in view of the coming visit of the Chinese prime minister.

But Lory Tan, the WWF president, said the 117 Chinese were repeat offenders. Many of them had been caught for the third time, he said. ***TJ Burgonio and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Batanes probe pressed

MILITANTS claimed the government was "hiding something sinister and inimical to the national interest" in the reported visits of United States aircraft to the Basco airport and urged Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad to conduct an investigation.

"The US government in the guise of access is slowly turning Basco airport as a base for military operations. President Macapagal-Arroyo and military officials are aware of US covert military undertakings but they kept these away from public scrutiny," said Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pamalakaya fisherfolk group.

Hicap said the unscheduled and unauthorized landings have terrorized fisherfolk and residents of the country's northernmost province.

Abad earlier filed a resolution in the House of Representatives urging the defense and foreign affairs departments to shed light on the frequent but unannounced visits of US war planes to the province. But the two departments have not responded, he said.

Pamalakaya secretary general Noli Serrano asked Congress to conduct a full-blown inquiry into the issue raised by Abad. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

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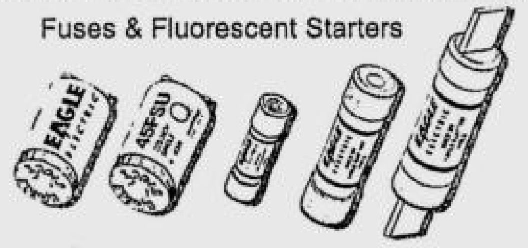

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No. 25, s-2002, dated August 1, 2002

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SUBJECT: Use of PhilHealth Identification Number (PIN) and PhilHealth Employer Number (PEN) in PhilHealth transactions

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Effective January 1, 2003, all PhilHealth members from the government and private sector and their respective employers, Individually Paying Members (IPM) and Non-Paying Members (NPM) shall be required to use their PhilHealth Numbers to expedite certain transactions with the Corporation.

As such, employers who have not been issued their respective PhilHealth Employer Number (PEN) are directed to register with any of the PhilHealth offices nationwide. Employees who have not been issued their PhilHealth Identification Numbers (PIN) should coordinate with their respective employers to facilitate the issuance thereof.

On the other hand, retirees and pensioners from the government and private sector who are now considered Non-Paying Members are encouraged to formally enlist with PhilHealth for the issuance of their ID cards which indicate their respective PINs.

Those concerned are advised to duly accomplish and submit to any PhilHealth office the following registration form/s, whichever is/are applicable:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	FORMS TO ACCOMPLISH
Employed Sector:	
Government Sector Employers and Employees	Er1G - *Employer Data Record* Er2 - *Report of Employee-Members* M1a - *Member Data Record*
Private Sector Employers and Employees	Er1P - *Employer Data Record* Er2 - *Report of Employee-Members* M1a - *Member Data Record*
Individually Paying Members	M1b - *Member Data Record*
Non Paying Members	M1c - *Member Data Record*

The use of these PhilHealth-issued numbers (PIN/PEN) shall facilitate transactions with PhilHealth such as premium remittance, proper posting of premium contributions and in benefit claims availment, among others. It is also vital in the establishment of the Corporation's database, which shall contain all the necessary records of members, including their dependents, and employers of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Please be guided accordingly.

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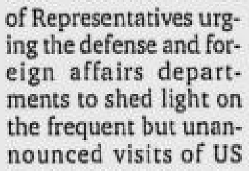

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Guantanamo OFWs fired for unionism

By Blanche Rivera

SOME 20 Filipino workers employed in the United States naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to build prison cells for alleged terrorists captured by the US military were sent home barely a month after they were hired for attempting to form a worker's union.

The Anglo-European Placement Services, the agency that recruited the Filipino workers and engineers, said that shortly after their arrival in the US naval base, the Filipino employees tried to demand more benefits on top of the compensation they had negotiated.

Some of the OFWs, who were working in supervisory posts, tried to be "wise guys" and attempted to organize a union to demand more from their employer, said the Anglo-European Placement Services in a statement.

The US government responded by hiring, through the Brown and Root international construction firm, another 180 Filipinos two weeks ago to build additional jails for members of the al-Qaida international terrorist network.

The Anglo-European Placement Services said the skill and diligence of the overseas Filipino workers, most of whom worked overtime to finish their tasks, have impressed the US government.

The recruitment firm said foreign workers at the base earned around $1,500 to $2,000 a month, including overtime pay, and even had a daily supply of beer to unwind after work.

The Filipino workers lived inside the US base and were given the same kind of meals as their British and US counterparts.

The 20 OFWs, who were not named, were sent home a month after they were hired, thus severing their relations with Brown and Root, one of the world's 10 largest construction firms.

The group was in the first batch of OFWs hired for Cuba and deployed there in late March.

The recent batch of 180 workers were tapped to build 204 more prison cells for the 598 al-Qaida members captured by US troops and now held in Camp Delta, where the jail conditions have been protested by human rights activists.

The jails built by the Filipino workers are connected by diamond holes to allow the Muslim prisoners to talk and pray in unison.

The Filipino workers in the Guantanamo Bay construction site, now numbering around 600, will be staying in Cuba until December.

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Palanca 2002 winners named

YOUNG blood and emerging literary giants dominate this year's roster of winners of the Palanca literary awards, which were to be presented in ceremonies at the Manila Peninsula Hotel last night, the awards body announced in a press statement.

The resigned education secretary, Raul Roco, the guest of honor and main speaker, was to be conferred the Gawad Dangal ng Lahi citation during the awarding ceremonies, the statement said.

Norman Wilwayco's entry, "Kung Paano Ko Inayos ang Buhok Ko Matapos ang Mahaba-haba Ring Paglalakbay," and Vicente G. Groyon III's "The Sky Over Dimas" won the two grand prizes for the novel in the Filipino and English divisions.

This year's first-prize winners in the Filipino division were led by Alvin B. Yapan ("Apokalipsis") for futuristic fiction; Marco A.V. Lopez ("Bukbok") for the short story; Genaro R. Gojo Cruz ("Ang Lumang Aparador") for the short story for children; Luis P. Gatmaitan, M.D., ("Tuwing Miyerkules") for the essay; Margaret P. Yarcia ("Kabataang Mandirigma") for the *kabataan* (youth) essay;

Roberto T. Añonuevo ("Estalon at Iba Pang Simoy ng Bait") for poetry; Nathaniel Joseph F. de Mesa ("subTEXT") for the one-act play; Liza C. Magtoto ("Agnoia") for the full-length play; Vincent Kua ("Shashin Lullabye") for television play; and Michael Angelo P. Dagñalan ("Isnats") for screenplay.

First prize winners in the English division were Raissa Claire U. Rivera ("Virtual Center") for futuristic fiction; Socorro A. Villanueva ("We Don't Cry Over This") for the short story; Luis Joaquin M. Katigbak ("Mico and Friends") for the short story for children; Melba Padilla Maggay ("Death and Early Sorrow") for the essay; Enrico Miguel T. Subido ("Waging War for Humanity: The Battle for Peace") for the youth essay; and Paolo Manalo (Jolography") for poetry.

Other first-prize winners in the short story category were Rolando Salvaña ("Libat") for Cebuano; Alice Tan Gonzales ("Sa Taguangkan Sang Duta") for Hiligaynon; and Lorenzo Tabin ("Puon") for Iluko.

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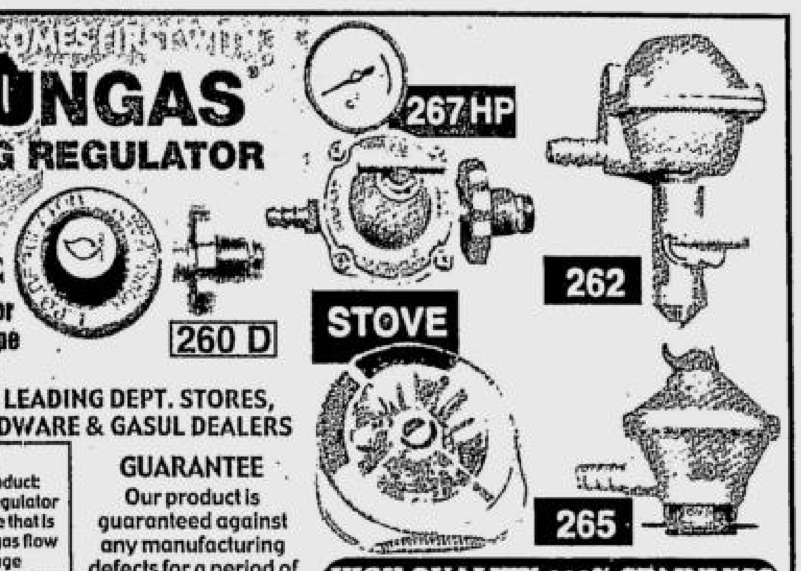

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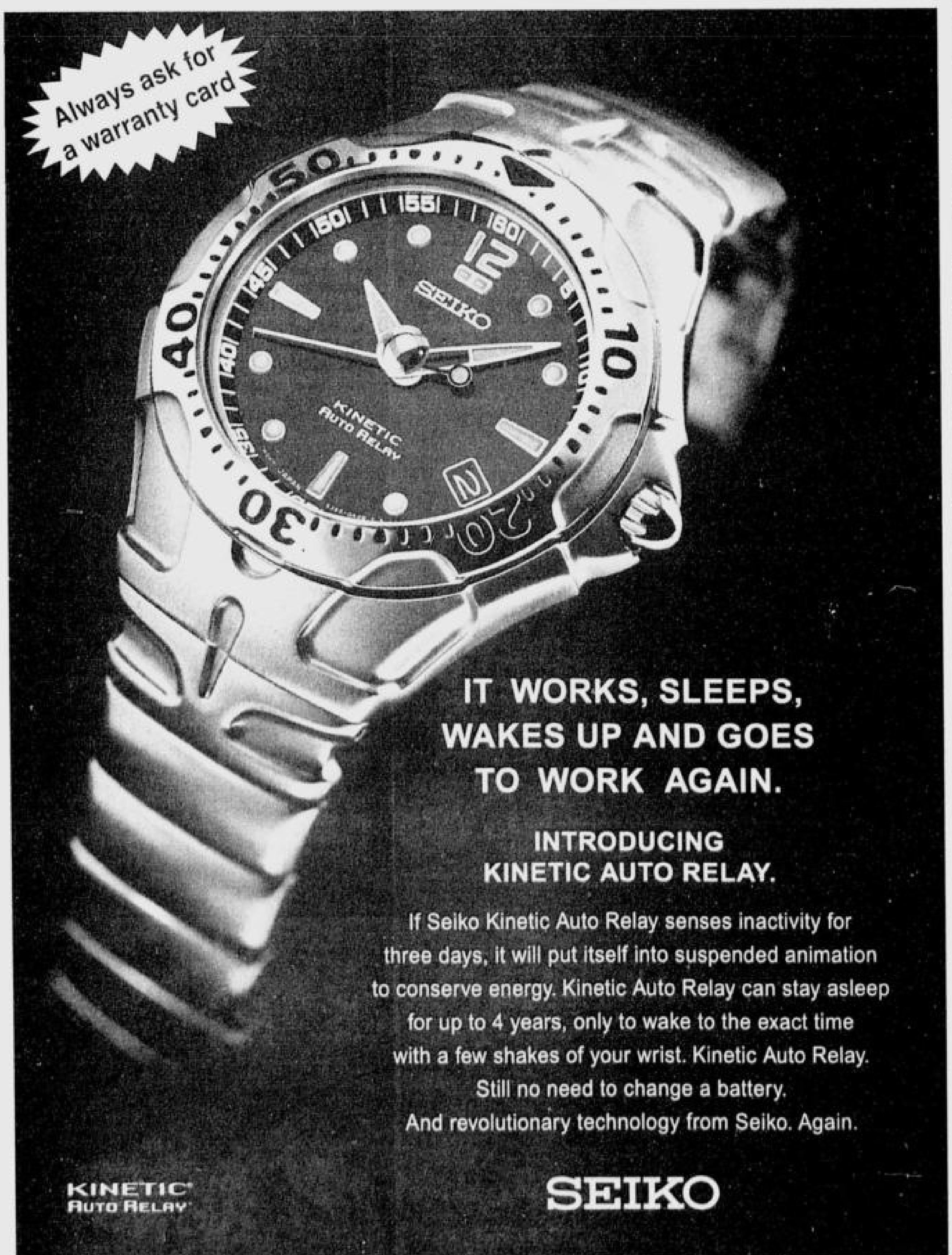

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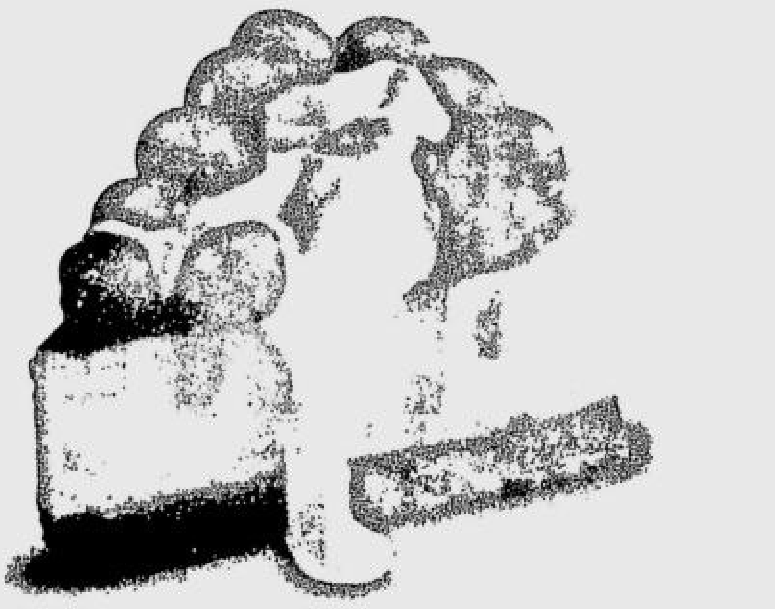

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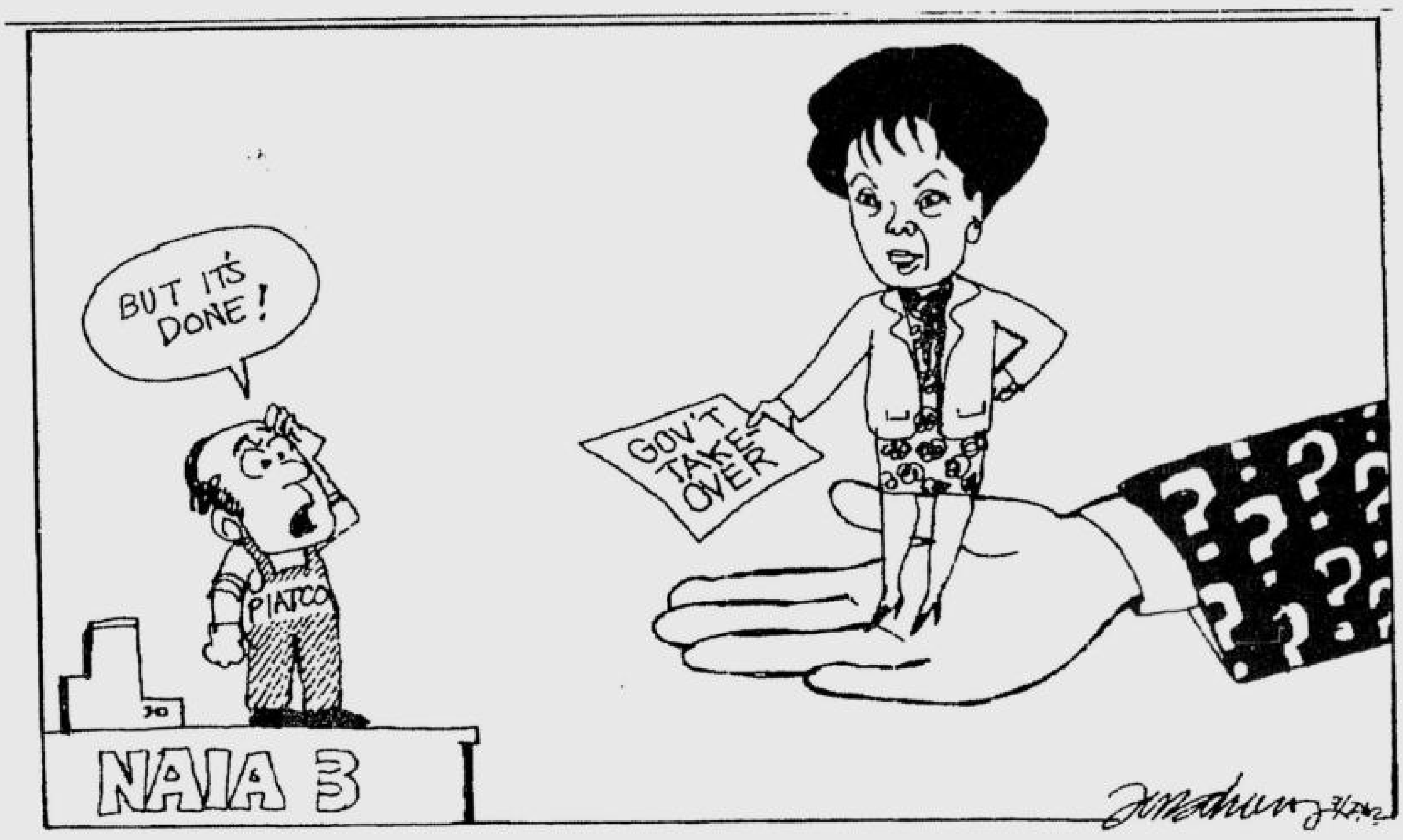

Ingratitude

EDITORIAL

PRIME Minister Mahathir Mohammad may have suspended the deportation of undocumented Filipinos from Sabah over the weekend, but it is the undiplomatic remarks of his chief diplomat, rather than his decisive action, that continues to roil the waters between the Philippines and Malaysia.

Speaking of protesters who burned the Malaysian flag and Mahathir's effigy outside the Malaysian Embassy in Manila, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters in Kuala Lumpur last Friday: "They have acted in an uncivilized way."

Apparently, to Syed Hamid, the democratic practice of vigorous street protest is yet another sign that the barbarians are at the gate. His remarks reinforce the international perception that the architects of Malaysia's admittedly impressive economic growth have struck a bargain with the modern-day devil; they have traded off political freedom for economic security.

Flag-burning may be, quite literally, incendiary, but the wider the democratic space the less danger this act of protest poses to the polity. A fire inside a house may be a real hazard; outside, in the open air, it is nothing more than a temporary, flickering symbol of outrage. If Syed Hamid thinks that the burning of his country's flag and the torching of his prime minister's effigy are inherently dangerous, that may well be because, in democratic terms, he lives in a small house. (And somewhere in the cellar of that house ex-Mahathir heir apparent Anwar Ibrahim lies in chains.)

Unfortunately, this was not all Syed Hamid said. He also waxed indignant over the alleged ingratitude Filipinos have displayed toward his country.

"Have they forgotten this is the place that their countrymen earn a living? Is this how they show their appreciation?"

Funny he should ask, because that was exactly what the street protesters had in mind. Because Sabah is the place where the deportees earned a living, and because any which way you cut it those deportees contributed their share to Sabah's economic growth, the Filipinos who worked there deserve all due consideration. Whatever they may have lacked in official documents, they did not deserve to be rounded up like cattle, caned like stray dogs and then packed in floating tin cans like sardines.

Another Malaysian official sounded another variation on the theme of ingratitude. After denying that any children had died at the detention camp in Sabah, camp deputy chief Ismail Zakaria said, "After what the government has been doing, the money we have spent on these immigrants, this is the thanks we get."

Apparently, for Zakaria, "immigrants" like the thousands of poor Filipinos who eke out a sorry existence in Sabah do not know how to behave when they are detained without much food and deported without much thought. For Zakaria, "immigrants" thus detained and then deported should thank the Malaysian authorities for grudgingly spending money on them, and treating them like dirt.

He even had the courage to point out what is apparently a unique feature of Malaysian penology, that staying in detention was at the detainee's discretion. "But these immigrants, they don't want to remain in the camp longer than they have to, so they fear missing the boat home while they are in the hospital."

Syed Hamid and Zakaria have it all wrong. It is the Malaysian government that missed the boat—of simple fellow-feeling, of plain common decency—on this issue.

Timely diversion

FOREIGN COMMENT

THERE could have been more perfect circumstances for Israel to "settle" its long-standing conflict with the Palestinians—on its terms. With global attention riveted on Washington's bellicose agenda for Iraq, Palestinians are left to their own resources in order to stand against Israeli leaders' genocidal war.

No wonder, Tel Aviv is inciting the United States to step up its smear campaign against Baghdad. Israeli leaders have urged Bush not to delay his military action and have even signaled full readiness to give a hand in striking at Iraq.

For the past 22 months, Palestinians of all ages have been the target of a brutal Israeli clampdown, which will certainly benefit from mounting jitters gripping the world over US President George W. Bush's resolve to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Egyptian Gazette (Cairo, Egypt)

'A policy of fear'

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IS Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople presiding over a policy of fear? Sen. Manuel Villar told the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday that this seems to be the emotion driving Philippine foreign policy, though he stopped short of saying that this is an invention of Ople.

"We're afraid of the United States, we're afraid of China and Taiwan. We're afraid of Malaysia and Indonesia, we're afraid of Japan and Korea and Vietnam, we're afraid of the MILF and MNLF," said Villar. (But we're not afraid of law enforcers and prosecutors.—NHC) These countries snarl and our tails snap between our legs. Our presidents, present and former, are afraid to protest to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad against the shabby treatment of our countrymen being deported from that neighbor. We have become a "yes-nation" to the United States. We can't enforce our sovereignty in the Spratlys against China. We can't stop Taiwanese fishermen from poaching in our waters. Taiwanese carriers practically dictate our own aviation policies. We are afraid to offend Japan because it might stop importing our "Japayukis." We are the doormat of the world.

"It is not because we are weak militarily," said Villar, though we are indeed no match to our stronger neighbors. (We are not even a match to the Abu Sayyaf.) It is because our economy depends on other countries. (Our cement, oil and pharmaceutical industries are controlled by foreign cartels.) So we slink around with our tails behind our legs.

What has happened to the descendants of Lapu-Lapu? What has happened to the countrymen of the Katipuneros who revolted against the two strongest colonizers of the world in the 19th and 20th centuries?

"I am not saying that we should declare war against anybody," said Villar, but can't we have a little more backbone when dealing with them?

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad agreed and advised the journalists not to forget Villar's christening of Philippine foreign policy as "a policy of fear."

We have been bowing to this policy for many years already but the recent soul-searching was prompted by the inhumane treatment of Muslim Filipinos, many of them born and grew up in Malaysia, in the process of being deported from that country. The irony is that the Philippine government would not have wakened had not the media reported the deaths of a number of the deportees and retold the horror stories of the survivors inside the Malaysian "concentration camps" and even on board our own Navy ships.

Let's make it clear, said Villar and Tatad, we're not against Filipinos being deported. If they're in Malaysia illegally, then they should be deported. But can't they be deported more compassionately?

* * *

The other problem sending alarms up and down the spines of the two legislators is the widening budget deficit. Advisers of President Macapagal-Arroyo are reportedly urging her to declare "a state of unmanageable budget deficit." This is similar to a corporation declaring bankruptcy. This will allow the government to stop releases of budgetary allocations to save scarce money. The first that may be hit may be the local government units when releases of IRA funds (internal revenue allocations, which are the share of LGUs for the income taxes paid) are stopped.

Tatad wonders whether Ms Macapagal can survive the 2004 election if she does that. Which means she most likely will not.

She can stop payment of our foreign debt which eats up at least 28 percent of the budget. But that will make us a pariah in the world. Creditors will freeze our assets abroad. And the surcharges, penalties and interest for the unpaid loans will only pile up and increase our foreign debt which we will be forced to pay sooner or later, anyway.

The solution is to collect the taxes that are not being collected, and to stop government and bank personnel from stealing those already collected. And to speedily send to jail those who already did to send a message to those contemplating to do the same.

What I find galling is that while the government is running out of money, and while millions of our countrymen have no jobs, and while a great majority of those lucky to have jobs earn only P4,000 to P7,000 a month, some privileged officials collect P300,000 to P500,000 a month. (That is only the basic pay and does not include all sorts of allowances.) And why they're not ashamed of it and even defy a presidential order not to collect more than double the P78,000 monthly salary of Cabinet members.

Instead of hanging their heads in shame, they're even haughtily defending their gargantuan salaries. "Our counterparts in the private sector get as much," they say.

There's a difference. The private sector is paying its executives with money it owns and earned. The government corporations are using the people's money. When the private corporation loses money, the executives are immediately kicked out. When government corporations lose money—like the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and the LandBank, which allowed the BIR and its own bank employees to steal the people's tax money—the executives stay in their jobs and just increase the premiums being collected from their members.

President Macapagal should put her foot down and order the GOCC executives to follow her administrative order to collect no more than P156,000 a month and donate the balance to a special fund for a specific purpose—such as perhaps the rehabilitation and livelihood of Filipino deportees. Those who can't survive on that amount can resign and seek higher pay in the private sector. (I doubt many of them will do that.) There would be many waiting in the wings who would be eager to jump at that pay.

Two things

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE are two aspects about our current "war" with Malaysia that haven't yet been pointed out.

First, you want to see a bigger version of setting fire to the wares of sidewalk vendors, look at what Malaysia has done to thousands of undocumented Filipinos in Sabah. The same logic applies. The Filipinos who have been caned, kept in hot and overcrowded detention centers, before being shipped like cattle back to the Philippines, were breaking the law. Indeed, far more than the sidewalk vendors who are merely bending it. They've sneaked into a country without papers, a crime that is now punishable with being presumed a terrorist in America. Malaysia, like Singapore, prides itself with achieving order and discipline through draconian methods. Breaking the law, bending the law, it makes no difference. Those who do these things must pay the price.

But look how we've reacted to that kind of logic. Some of us have rallied in front of the Malaysian Embassy, others have burned the Malaysian flag, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has flown all the way to Tawi-Tawi to commiserate with the deportees (in the process causing the children to suffer more, this time by dehydration, by remaining in fetid quarters till she arrived) and has even asked Fidel Ramos to call up his pal, Mahathir Mohammad, to ask him why he has done this. We have called the Malaysian government a brute, and will not be appeased until it apologizes. The Filipinos may be illegals, we say, but they do not deserve to be treated like this. They deserve to be treated more humanely.

I agree completely with our sense of outrage. I feel outraged too, though I draw the line at burning flags. It's time we had the sense to junk that stupidity, which has really no place in civilized life. You burn a flag, you do not just insult a government, you insult a people. Malaysians are as much victims of Mahathir's concept of discipline as Filipinos in Malaysia. Why should you want to put them down?

Syed Hamid Albar, the Malaysian foreign minister has a point when he says the protesters who burned the Malaysian flag before the Malaysian Embassy "acted in an uncivilized way." I see the Philippine flag being burned in an Arab country because of GMA's efforts to turn herself into George Bush's sidekick, I'd say the same thing. Why should all of us be penalized for the folly of our leaders? Why should our entire history, culture and national identity be damned because of the mistakes of our leaders? The same goes for burning the American flag too. The best way to protest uncivilized acts is by acting in a civilized way, not by lapsing into the same barbarianism.

Of course I do not buy Syed's subsequent point about our apparent ungratefulness. "Have they forgotten this is the place where their countrymen earn a living? Is this how they show their appreciation?" That is the same arrogance our employers show when they say their workers deserve what they get because they are doing them a favor by employing them. That presumes employers do not profit from the work of their workers. It's the same thing here. Filipino labor is one of the most skilled and, not without irony, disciplined (when abroad) in the world. We can always say: "Have they forgotten that is the place where many of our countrymen work? Is this how they show their appreciation?"

But that brings me to the second point, a far more important one. That is the fact that we have some 3 million overseas workers, most of whom are working in Muslim countries like Malaysia. The bulk of them, nearly a million, is in Saudi Arabia. I said before, and I say again: What the hell are we doing pursuing a foreign policy that is bound very clearly to piss them off?

That foreign policy at the very least consists of dealing nearly exclusively with the United States and not with our neighbors in Southeast Asia and our economic partners in the Arab world. As GMA has shown by talking with Mahathir, which has stopped, though probably only temporarily, the caning and deportation of Filipino illegals, a great deal can be accomplished simply by that, by talking. By opening channels of communications with our neighbors, by listening to them and not by arrogantly lecturing them on how to deal with terrorism.

But more than that, that foreign policy consists of aggressively pushing America's version of war against terror, which the EU has already distanced itself from, and which the Arab countries resent with a passion. Some weeks ago, over lunch, I asked Vice President Teofisto Guingona and one of his aides, Merlin Magallona, if the Arab countries have expressed any animosity toward our current attempts to become Tonto to America's Lone Ranger to fight Tonto's people. They said very diplomatically that the Arab countries have sensed a downgrading of our relations with them and have been disappointed in particular with our lack of appreciation for what the Organization of Islamic Countries has done in helping bring peace to our Muslim South. They were also deeply dismayed to find us voting with the United States on all global issues.

That cannot bode well for the future of our relationship with our Arab neighbors who are host to millions of our countrymen. That is something we ourselves should appreciate. I most sincerely hope it is not, but the Malaysian deportations could just be the tip of the iceberg. What is certain is that we are putting our workers in those countries, even the ones with papers, in a very vulnerable position. Why shouldn't those countries prefer Sri Lankans or Bengalis or Indians to a group of people whose government so aggressively shows an active dislike for them?

More than Malaysia's version of clearing sidewalks by incendiary means, that is the thing to really worry about.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Why only now?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER I featured a response from Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez, wherein he explained the preventive suspension and the complaint of gross negligence that he slapped against Public Works Undersecretary Mabini Pablo before the Ombudsman, in connection with the P143-million vehicle repairs scam in the DPWH. Pablo, who maintains his total innocence of the scam, had earlier complained here that his side was never sought or heard by the DPWH investigating committee formed by Secretary Simeon Datumanong. Then on Aug. 8, said Pablo, he was suddenly charged and suspended by a new investigating committee headed by Valdez. In turn, Valdez argued that Pablo was understandably invoking his "individual liberties" but that preventive suspension is "part of the state's right to due process and self-preservation, which must not be subordinated to the right of the individual."

I must confess that I am very much disturbed by this argument of Justice Valdez about state rights not being subordinated to individual liberties. This sounds very much like the line of those authoritarian regimes that have been discredited around the world over a decade ago. Valdez invokes "due process" for the state but it seems that the same principle was shelved in this individual case. I'm sure many others were disturbed by the implication.

* * *

Presidential adviser Gloria Climaco may have good intentions in questioning the "onerous provisions" in the amended contract between Piatco and the government at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings last week. But the problem is that she's raising them when the state-of-the-art Terminal 3 airport is about to open. This has prompted observers to allege that her group may be pushing for another party to take over; in fact the popular saying, "*Baka iba ang nagsaing at iba naman ang kakain*," is being invoked. If indeed there were onerous provisions introduced in the Erap years as amendments to the original contract forged between Piatco and the government in the Ramos years, why couldn't these have been tackled earlier by the new government?

* * *

Concessionaire Piatco is owned 60 percent by the Cheng group, 30 percent by the German-based Fraport group and 10 percent by the Japanese group Nisshio Iwai, with some investments by the SB Airport of Singapore. Apparently, the government has been negotiating over the months with Fraport, which doubtless wants out due to all the troubles stirred up by the controversy over Piatco, but not with the other investors. If as Climaco said, the government's plan of a takeover of Fraport's equity is preparatory to bidding out Terminal 3, it has to contend with the right of first refusal provision in the contract between the Cheng group and Fraport. The Cheng group could raise this legal issue.

* * *

Then too, it seems more sensible for the government to encourage Cheng's negotiations with other investors to buy out Fraport, than to take over Fraport's equity, as this would run counter to its privatization avowal. Besides, truth to tell, most citizens don't feel good about the government getting the added burden of running another airport. True, Climaco has made it clear that Fraport will be hired to run the airport's technical operations, but the question is, why should the cash-strapped government pay $400 million to Fraport and then hire it to run the airport, when, as Rep. Willie Villarama put it, it could get P700 million from the original contract with Piatco at no risk? Then too, as Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles pointed out, the government can get Terminal 3 for only P1 at the end of Piatco's BOT 25-year lease.

* * *

A prospective lawsuit for the government has become interesting after Piatco VP Moises Tolentino opined that he sees the hand of the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law firm, which represented Lucio Tan in the 1996 Terminal 3 bidding; Tan remains its client. He also noted that Climaco has been closely consulting with presidential legal adviser Nonong Cruz, formerly of that office, and that her own legal adviser is Cynthia Nuval-Ambrosio of the same firm. As longtime SGV executive, Climaco worked closely with Carpio Villaraza in many cases in the past.

If a suit arose, defending the government would be its chief lawyer, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, who also came from the law firm. If it goes up to the Supreme Court, presumably inhibiting himself will be Associate Justice Antonio Carpio. An unseen hand in all this is senior partner Arthur Villaraza, the First Couple's private lawyer.

* * *

In one of his sensible well-argued columns recently, former senator and now presidential adviser Ernesto Herrera wrote on the problem of Filipino repatriation from Sabah. Since it's the National Day of Malaysia today, it is appropriate to highlight a few points from Herrera.

As he correctly pointed out, "a human being is a human being, whether he or she has got papers to show that his or her stay in Sabah is legal or not." Deploring the Malaysian government's "harsh and inhumane treatment" of our illegal immigrants in Sabah, he also raised the distinctions that the government could pursue with Malaysia following President Macapagal-Arroyo's successful telephone diplomacy with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad. Herrera said that if GMA wants to take the Sabah discussions to a higher plane, she could raise several points: namely, nationalization for Filipino children born in Sabah; permanent residency status for longtime residents who have intermarried and settled there and work permits for those transients who are validly employed. Although he expressed doubt "if Mahathir would concede those distinctions," Herrera is correct: the Malaysians should not throw out the Filipinos in Sabah wholesale, as obviously they fall into several categories.

An invitation to BF

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

BAYANI Fernando is cordially invited to come to Cagayan de Oro City where he will probably find the greatest source of encouragement in his drive to clean the streets of Metro Manila. For it is in Cagayan de Oro where he will find the exact opposite of what he is doing. By looking at the antithesis, BF will find strength in his thesis. And so here he will find solace that he has made the right move.

In Cagayan de Oro, he will see for himself how squatters' shanties tolerated by City Hall right along public thoroughfares are killing the life of the city. On a four-lane stretch of concrete road, only two lanes are usable for the outer lanes are teeming with shanties.

Here he will see how jeepney drivers have no qualms holding traffic up, stopping to load and unload in the middle of the street, even right under the very noses of the city's traffic aides. In Cagayan de Oro, the jeepney driver truly reigns as the king of the road. BF will see how traffic is choked by a burgeoning number of "*trisikads*" crossing busy intersections even in broad daylight.

There is more to hearten BF in Cagayan de Oro. Here he will find an entire four-lane street completely closed because it has been allowed by City Hall to mushroom into an ugly colony of makeshift vending stalls, even if the public market is right next door.

Traffic bedlam in Cagayan de Oro today is a daily occurrence. The city is simply choked and congested. It is dirty and decrepit. Even the cherry blossom-lined circular Gaston Park, right across the mayor's office, has sidewalk vendors who have made shanty residences out of their sidewalk stalls, no matter if there is a city ordinance prohibiting such. Should that be fodder for the Ombudsman?

If a contest were held today, easily Cagayan de Oro will make it as the country's capital of what appears to be institutionalized anarchy. The rationale for all these? Very simple. BF, I'm sure will smoothly see through the lines. After all, he too was a city mayor.

So what can BF learn from Cagayan de Oro? Not that those who wallow in poverty have the right to a livelihood under the sun. He knows there are public markets for that. Not that there are informal settlers left and right because many are landless. He knows it is the task of governments to provide land for the landless for that is a universal duty of egalitarianism.

No, there is a reason for institutionalized anarchy and BF had better find out, for only then can he understand why disorder and chaos reign in the streets. And Cagayan de Oro will give him the best education. For it is here where he can best contemplate the reason why sidewalk vendors, squatters' shanties and truant public drivers hold public order in abeyance.

And it is this: the exploitation of the poor by those who are in power in order to perpetuate themselves in the next elections at the expense of a real urban development that will truly benefit all, especially those who have less in life.

When local government officials pontificate that they are for the *mahirap*, or the *kabus* and the *linupigan*, as the politicians of the South say of the poor and the oppressed in Binisaya, we know of course it means not exactly that. Of course we know they mean getting the votes from those who live below the poverty line who comprise the voting bulk. The principle behind it is actually very much akin to Goebbels' dictum, that a lie often repeated will eventually reach a crescendo of credibility. And we thought we had already wakened to the pseudo-poor rhetorics of the former 13th president (yes, Erap), who as we know now, was not really for the poor at all. Well, there continue to be Erap clones even after Edsa II.

Yet, the pro-poor *kuno* at City Hall do not cry foul. Public office is no longer a public trust. Much of it is actually political economics that eternally consign the Filipino people into being forever gullible.

Secretary Cito Lorenzo, who used to traverse the mountain highway from Bukidnon to Cagayan de Oro during our high school days, remembers the sceneries of the city and the bay. Now there are no vistas, just shanties blocking the view. How can cities ruled by such grubby politics attract investments? Immediately, the disincentive is the disorder. It must be a difficult prospect for Lorenzo to generate jobs in Cagayan de Oro.

By the way, GMA had cancelled an invitation to come to Cagayan de Oro last Aug. 24 to speak at the alumni homecoming of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. No, it is not because the Cagayan River that cuts across the city (she had enjoyed white water rafting on the upstream portion), is now filled with flotsam and is going down as the next Pasig. The scuttlebutt is that she saw no need to come, for she is already sure of getting in 2004 the support of local politicians, who previously represented Erap's mighty machine in Mindanao. If it is true, *Pastilan! Politika ra di-ay gihapon*, Ma'am?

So is BF not coming too?

* * *

Comments to monta@sni.ph

The dagger look of a Zulu warrior

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

EARTH Summit 2002 brought together the world's most argumentative people to discuss the most contentious issues facing the future of the planet—all the advocates and their adversaries holding forth in their vast areas of violent antagonism—climate change, pollution, globalization, poverty and what everyone else ought to do about them.

Gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, were the leaders of governments and their ministers; NGO and civil society activists; scientists and environmentalists; corporate leaders and philosophers, thinkers, builders, advocates, revolutionaries and of course, the media, to record the family squabble over the family home.

Meeting in an Africa stalked by famine and starvation, the delegates inside, and the protesters outside, mixed it up, while quaffing imported bottled water, serving champagne and caviar at endless receptions and sometimes delivering the bitterest vituperation against terrible global problems.

I'm glad George W. Bush decided to spare himself the bother of attending. America can just steer an independent course, if she keeps her own front stoop clean and avoid the endless debating society that has little to actually show for a decade of bombast since Rio.

But I visited the excellent website of the organizers themselves, www.earthsummit2002.org, which had good access to the principal events and personalities, as well as their statements and documents. There was even Joburg Internet Radio, the summit's official radio station, pumping Afro-techno-jazz to keep visitors in an alert African savannah frame of mind, while observing the opposing wildebeests, locking ideological horns in skull-cracking headbutts. It was just like being there, complete with a visit to the site's Ubuntu Village, a center of recreation for the delegates.

Bill Moyers (a deeper Larry King) and veteran BBC presenter Nisha Pillai, hosted an excellent program on the British news channel in which they interviewed a cross-section of the participants. Brilliantly edited to get each person's quintessential thoughts in 60 seconds or less, one inevitably agrees or disagrees strongly with each declaration.

One of the hottest issues was climate change and global warming, which Indian environmentalist and magazine publisher Sunita Narain, blames squarely on the profligate lifestyles of the West (or the North if you want to be politically correct). But data proferred by Danish professor Bjorn Lomborg, showing that the pursuit of those very same profligate lifestyles in the Third World is causing most of the uncontrolled air and water pollution because poverty makes an unaffordable luxury of environmentalism.

In his best-selling book, "The Sceptical Environmentalist," Lomborg argues for a practical approach on environmental issues, instead of a confrontational one. No nation or people, north or south, east or west, is wholly blameless or responsible.

Cut to the even more politically correct Salvadoran friend of the earth and the global South, Ricardo Navarro, who was quick to exponentiate on the issue of globalization, multinational companies and genetically engineered crops, which he has claimed are either stolen from the traditional fruit and staple crops of poor nations, or poisoning their populations as untested and unsafe products.

His outburst segued into the person that impressed me most on the Moyers panel: Dr. Florence Muringi Wambugu, a Kenyan agronomist and biologist. Even before she spoke, I could see on her stoic face the painfully etched, fright-mask lines of years spent battling famine and death. She had caustic words for the Salvadoran and the ilk of professional anti-biotechnology activists who successfully frightened the government of Zambia to reject food aid from the West unless certified GMO-free. What was good enough for the US public to eat, was somehow unfit for starving Africans.

She gave the Salvadoran the dagger look of a Zulu warrior.

In her conference papers, Dr. Wambugu says millions of men, women and children could die of starvation in Africa, as the Euro-liberals argue over labels, the safety of the very safety tests that the scientists want to do and the ethics of genetic engineering human food crops. Whole African villages and millions have starved to death when the pestilence of a mere worm takes the crop, whereas the current generation of GMOs, like BT Corn are all designed to eliminate the need for pesticides by building in genetic resistance to the pests. She says nothing has worked as well, or as cheaply for poor African farmers, as the "genius of protection built into the genetically engineered seed."

I agree. It's not as if the past 20,000 years of agriculture, plant and animal breeding are in any philosophical sense different than what we are doing now. We just got a lot smarter about it. Now that there is simply no more agricultural land to develop on the planet without destroying the last forests and wetlands, the only ecological way out is to produce more food on the existing land. The easiest way to do that is to keep more away from pests like the corn borer, which gobbles up to half of Mindanao's annual corn crop, the same basic problem as in Dr. Wambugu's famine-plagued Africa.

But I think among the worst things in the world are people capable of sacrificing human lives upon the altar of their political ideology. Not only despots are capable of this, but intellectuals, philosophers and revolutionaries.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Matching photos with the news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

UNFAIR and derogatory!

So says a medical practitioner from San Juan, Metro Manila, who was unhappy with the way the INQUIRER published the photo of Sen. Loi Ejercito-Estrada on the front page of its Aug. 27 issue.

The accompanying news was about Ejercito's reaction to the order of the Sandiganbayan ordering a freeze on bank deposits suspected to have been illegally amassed by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Bearing the headline "Loi: Don't we have right to get rich?", the report quoted Ejercito as saying in Filipino "Don't we have the right to have money? Don't we have the right to earn a living? What else do they want to freeze, the things we worked so hard for?" Beside the news was a picture of Ejercito with her nose pointed upward in what looked like a snobbish pose.

The reader, who did not hide her admiration for the former First Couple, echoed Ejercito's complaint (which came out in the newspaper's Aug. 28 issue) that the photo made her appear like she was a rich snob. The Estradas' diehard follower said Ejercito is a simple and unassuming person who does not have any airs even if she is rich in her own right.

In the reader's words, "if Senator Loi was humble when her husband was in power, she's more now because she does not want the political enemies of her family to find an excuse to further persecute her."

On the issue of the correct translation of Ejercito's statement *"Wala na ba kaming karapatan magkaroon ng pera?"* the reader said, "Don't we have the right to have money?" is more accurate than "Don't we have the right to get rich?"

Matching photo

The editor who laid out the front page explained that there was no malice in the choice of Ejercito's picture. It was a candid shot that perfectly fit the tone or sense of the senator's dismay with the freeze order issued by the court. Although there were other photos to choose from, he found them either too "posed," meaning, formal and stiff, or did not jibe with the substance of the news it is supposed to support.

On whether the headline truthfully reflected Ejercito's statement, the editor said the statement "Don't we have right to get rich?" has the same meaning as the translation that Ejercito wants. To the ordinary reader, "making money" is synonymous to "getting rich."

Taking into account the context in which the front-page news was presented and the reasons cited by the editor, I think the reader and Ejercito have no reason to complain about the photo choice.

Other than for aesthetic reasons (pictures help break the monotony of editorial content), the photos that accompany news reports are meant to give the readers an idea of how the subject of the news looks. Pictures, illustrations and even cartoons provide some imagery to the events subject of the news.

A bland photo of Ejercito would have looked like a mug shot. It will not add value to the news or enhance its readability. It might only give the impression of a space filler.

The photo chosen by the editor matched the assertive and confident stance of Ejercito that her husband did not have to steal public funds to be able to maintain fat bank accounts.

In earlier media interviews, she pointed out that long before her husband became president, he already earned millions from his movie productions and real estate investments. Thus, according to her, the claim of the prosecutors in the ongoing plunder trial that Estrada earned his riches from *jueteng* money is baseless.

Ejercito believes she has nothing to apologize for the money that she and her husband have earned through hard work prior to his entry to public service. She is proud of the financial savvy of the deposed president.

That sense of pride and confidence is vividly captured in the photo in question. It was as if she was thumbing her nose on the people who question her husband's ability to get rich without resorting to illegal means or taking advantage of his public office.

I think it was the right picture for the news report. I doubt if any other photo would have added "value" to the accompanying news report.

Choice of words

I have a different view, however, on the accuracy of the translation of Ejercito's statement. I do not claim any expertise in the Filipino language, but I believe the correct translation of *"Wala na ba kaming karapatan magkaroon ng pera?"* is "Don't we have the right to have money?" Substituting the word "rich" for "money" is grammatically incorrect.

The error may be inadvertent, but I think apologies are in order to the lady senator for the inaccurate translation. Mea culpa.

The incident subject of today's column reminds me of the practice of many of our politicians, in particular, those who think wide media exposure is an important element of their political ambitions, of sending to the editorial desk reams of press releases bearing their comments on the issues of the day and their plans in the future. The statements are written on expensive paper and accompanied by colorful shots of themselves in various poses.

Sometimes, the PR staff of these politicians suggest the date when the "praise release" should come out, or the page where it should be featured, including the way the photos should be arranged. The pressure tactics of these people can put to shame the most persistent preachers of The Seventh Day Adventists.

When the press statements see print the way they requested, or at least close to what they wanted, these politicians are profuse with their appreciation for the newspaper's "fair reporting of events" or "adherence to its commitment to balanced news."

But that good perception of the INQUIRER changes when the newspaper does not publish their press releases, or comes out with news reports that put them in a bad light, or their not-so-good side is highlighted in the accompanying photos of the news.

Blam! Suddenly, the INQUIRER becomes a journalistic ogre. It is accused of bias, unfair reporting, censorship, news distortion and all kinds of evils that newspapers can be accused of.

It is my luck that I am at the receiving end of these complaints. When I get letters, which I describe as communications from Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, I console myself with the thought that pleasing everybody is an impossible dream for newspapers.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Remembering the purpose of the coco levy fund

LETTERS

THE COCONUT farmers would like to thank Speaker Jose de Venecia for urging the courts to resolve with finality the ownership question over the coco levy fund amounting to more than P100 billion.

They however take exception to the Speaker's suggestion that the levy fund could be used to help narrow the fiscal deficit and possibly avoid delays in the public works program.

A review of all the presidential decrees and other issuances directing the levy collection will show that it was imposed for a specific purpose, that is, for the benefit of the coconut farmers.

Presidential Decree 232 dated July 1, 1973 creating the Philippine Coconut Authority declares thus:

"Section 1. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the state to promote accelerated growth and development of the coconut and other palm oil industry so that the benefits of such growth shall accrue to the greatest number, and to provide continued leadership and support in the integrated development of the industry."

PD 232 proceeds to specify the following objective:

"Section 2. c. To achieve vertical integration of the coconut industry so that coconut farmers become participants in and beneficiaries of the development and growth of the coconut industry."

This mandated policy is reiterated in at least four presidential decrees, two executive orders, a letter of instructions and a PCA resolution:

PD 961 dated July 14, 1976
EO 490 dated Nov. 27, 1977
PCA Res. 34-78 dated Feb. 16, 1978
PD 1468 dated June 11, 1978
LOI 926 dated Sept. 3, 1979
PD 1841 dated Oct. 2, 1981
EC 880 dated May 4, 1983
PD 1863 dated May 18, 1983

The specific provisions of the coco-levy related state decrees and issuances all state that the purpose of the levy collections was to fund concerns, activities and commercial investments for the benefit of the coconut farmers. One who may be minded to go over those decrees and issuances will find that the phrase "for the benefit of the coconut farmers" was repeated at least 82 times in the text of six presidential decrees, three executive orders, four letter of instructions and 11 PCA resolutions.

The levy was imposed for nine years from 1973 up to 1982. It directed the collection of a P60 average rate per 100 kilos of the first copra sale by the farmers. It diminished their already painfully low income. Its purpose was precisely to help uplift their lives. The Declaration of State Policy says so at least nine times in decrees and issuances, specific provisions of which direct, we repeat, at least 82 times, that the fund were to be used "for the benefit of the coconut farmers."

The matter, I think, goes beyond the coconut. It is a continuing indictment of our justice system. It is one of the injustices that impact on our people's faith and trust in the government and our stability as a nation. It is time to correct this untenable and unjust situation.

—OSCAR F. SANTOS,
Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), 84 Masikap St., Teachers Village, Quezon City

Engineered to make you lose

REGARDING slot machines or one-armed bandit machines, please be informed that as the project engineer for The Edward J. Nell Co., I constructed the game room of the Officers' Club of the US Naval Base in Subic some time in the early 1960s. After installing about 20 slot machines complete with electrical power and other necessary items, American technicians took over and made adjustments to pay off 20 percent of the earnings to US Navy patrons.

The technicians showed the undersigned how they can adjust the machines for zero-earnings or even 100 percent earnings for any player.

The one-armed bandits are therefore not a game of chance. Everything is stacked-up against the players. Besides the above experience, I had played in casinos in Las Vegas as well as in Atlantic City in the United States and in casinos in Monaco as well as in other European gaming houses, just to while away the time and not to think of winning.

—BERNARDO NIGUIDULA JR.,
46 Kingsville St.,
White Plains, Quezon City

Why the Casecnan contract should be cancelled

THE ONGOING Senate probe on the Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power project confirms the Freedom from Debt Coalition's own findings which we had disclosed earlier. The controversies and irregularities surrounding the Casecnan project are indeed proving to be of gargantuan proportions.

Among the many highly controversial issues concerning the project concerns the burdensome tax provisions in the contract. Not only are the tax provisions grossly disadvantageous, they are totally absurd.

Due to the onerous provision in the contract that compels the government to reimburse CE Casecnan's tax advances, a huge debt burden will be added to the government's already crippling debt problem.

From 1995 to 2001, CE Casecnan claims to have paid $51.49 million worth of tax payments. Government computations based on the formula provided in the contract showed that these tax advances would amount to $878.74 million in 20 years, translating to a 48 percent internal rate of return.

Shocked by this humongous amount in which culprits of the contract have seemingly entrapped the government, the Interagency Negotiating Team, formed to pursue a settlement with CE Casecnan, is scrambling to convince CE Casecnan to agree to a lower rate of return. Using the build-operate-transfer law as a benchmark, the government has proposed a 17.93 percent rate that would still yield a whopping $131.65 million or about: P6.5825 billion as upfront payment for CE Casecnan's tax expenses.

We of the Freedom from Debt Coalition strongly condemn the Macapagal administration's feeble attempts at a settlement.

First, more than $130 million of precious government money is a ridiculous amount to compensate CE Casecnan's $51.49 million in tax payments. It is totally unreasonable for the government to pay CE Casecnan more than double the amount of tax advances it got from the company.

Second, the CE Casecnan contract is riddled with fraud, irregularities and grossly disadvantageous provisions that are costly to the government and taxpayers. Apart from this, our own study has revealed the project's damaging social and environmental impact on the affected communities. We find that there is absolutely no reason for the Macapagal administration to honor this contract. The government's only recourse is to work for the cancellation of this contract.

We therefore call on the Senate blue ribbon and energy committees to aggressively pursue their investigation to further bring out the irregularities, violations and contract breaches of CE Casecnan.

Furthermore, we challenge the Macapagal administration to stop negotiations with CE Casecnan and instead muster the political will to rescind the CE Casecnan contract. The government's efforts should not be wasted on settlements. Only a cancellation of the CE Casecnan contract can correct the grave injustice that has been committed.

—LIDY B. NACPIL,
secretary general, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiyaga St., Central District, Quezon City

These proposed laws are dangerous

POLITICAL developments in the current government campaign against terrorism indicate an alarming disregard for civil rights and basic freedoms. Lately, we have observed the increasing intolerance by the government to legitimate protest as shown by the violent manner with which the police has dispersed protest actions and demonstrations.

Equally worrisome is the effort to institutionalize in our laws the reversal of certain fundamental freedoms. Now pending in Congress are two House bills and a Senate bill which would define terrorism and provide penalties for it. These are Senate Bill 1980, and House Bills 3802 and 4980.

These bills have provisions which violate the Bill of Rights, specifically Article III, Section 4 of the Philippine Constitution, which mandates that, "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for the redress of grievances" and Article 7, which specifics that, "The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized."

We are particularly concerned over the following:

1. Section 7 of SB 1980 imposes a penalty of six months imprisonment on anyone who divulges information on data gathered in cases involving terrorism.

2. Section 10 of HB 3802 and Section 14 of HB 4980 authorizes pertinent government agencies to intercept communication including those electronically transmitted.

These provisions discourage the exchange of information and make it easy to fabricate charges against handlers, transmitters and users of information.

3. Section 10 (b) of MB 4980 prohibits the communication of a report in terrorism cases or to any person or the media.

4. Section 21 of HB 4980 penalizes persons, who could be ordinary citizens as well as journalists, for reporting or filing false information, with a fine of not less than P500,000 and not more than P1 million. (A similar provision appears in the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001.)

In addition to these provisions, the definition of terrorism and terrorists, as well as "terrorist acts" in Section 3 of the Senate bill is also worrisome. A terrorist act is defined as one "causing or attempting or threatening to cause destruction," which the police or the courts can choose to interpret as referring to almost any form of public expression. This section also states that an intent, threat or perceived calculation to provoke "a state of terror..." constitutes terrorism. The Senate bill also criminalizes any such "terrorist act" defined by it and committed "in the advancement of any cause or belief."

We condemn acts of violence that target innocent civilians, whether perpetrated by extremist groups or agencies of the government. The campaign against them, however, must not be waged at the expense of the fundamental freedoms protected by the Constitution, nor be used to suppress legitimate protest and dissent. The right to free expression is a fundamental right to which the right to information is central. The chilling effect on press freedom of Section 21, if HB 4980 passes, is obvious and disturbing enough.

We therefore call on the Filipino people to be vigilant against affronts to our fundamental freedoms. We call on the government—on the President, on our senators and congressmen—to uphold the spirit of the Constitution and to protect the rights of the people.

—MELINDA QUINTOS DE JESUS,
Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility
and 12 other signatories

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Schedule of Special Events

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Forum
"Current Trends in Medical Informatics"
Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Forum
"New Initiatives for the Total Quality Librarians"
Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI)

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Nurturing Relationships: All about dating, to planning your wedding, to starting a Family"

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Literature Circles for Early Childhood Educators Seminar: A Seminar-Workshop for Pre-School Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
Speaker: Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo, Educational Consultant

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Values Integration in Classroom Teaching Seminar"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Pastor's Exclusive Launch"
OMF Literature, Inc.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar
"Osborne Episode I: Surviving Virus and Hack Attacks"
"Glencoe: Your Total Solution to the New Curriculum"
McGraw-Hill Education

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"IT Power! Technology is key. Featuring Goodwill Bookstore website plus freebies galore!"

10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Selection/Deselection: Building a Total Quality Collection"
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries (PAARL)

2:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Open Forum
"The Future of Library and Information Science Education: A Presentation and Discussion"
Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS)

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Publishing An Award Winning Book"
Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"National Book Awards"
Manila Critics Circle

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Forum
"Information Literacy Education"
UP Library Science Alumni Association

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Wow! Bulaga! Mga Kuwento Para sa Pamilya by Armando Canleon, Daily Gospel Now New Edition by Robert Sullivan, OMI, The Colorless Rainbow by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, The Magnificent Pearl by Heidi Emily Eusebio-Abad, Si Lit, Ang Nawawalang Tupa (Lit, The Lost Sheep) by M. Timothy Magadia, PDDM, Illustrated by Raquel Ida-Jimenez"
Paulines Publishing

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"GBS Family Day: Your family-friendly bookstore brings you tips on parenting and child-rearing"

1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
"Pasiklaban sa Paaralan"
An Inter-School Competition
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Member's Meeting"
Book Exporters Association of the Phil. (BEAP)

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
St Pauls

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Lifestyle Makeovers: New Developments in Fitness, Health and Well-being"

12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Genyo Product Launch & Workshop"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Christian Booksellers Association - Workshop"
OMF Literature, Inc.

5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Ars Novo Guitar Quartet in a Mini Concert"
Book Wagon

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
OMF Literature, Inc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rms. A & B
"Film Showing of Classic Teacher-Oriented Movies"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Money Matters! Career, Business & Money Management tips for everyday use."

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar/Workshop for Preschool
"Shared Reading: An Approach to Literacy"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Forum: Cycle Time Management"
Speaker: Mr. Dindo M. Satumba
Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Product Presentation
"Electronic Databases and Resource Centers for the Modern Library"
Thomson Learning

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
"Launch of Jonathan Chua's The Critical Villa"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Philippine Bookfair Fellowship Night
(by invitation)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Knowledge Power! A Quiz Show"

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"The Magical Bridge to Reading and Writing: A Seminar-Workshop for Primary Grade Teachers"
Seminar Fee: P700.00/participant
by Ms. Maricar Gustilo de Ocampo
Education Consultant

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
"Celebrity Storytelling by Ms. Christine Jacob-Sandejas"
Parents Magazine and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Philippine Robotics Society Induction of Officers"
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Chess Simul with Grand Master Eugene Torre"
Active Chess Center of Asia and Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
UST Publishing House

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Book Launching"
Adarna House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2002

10:00 A.M.
Goodwill Bookstore Pavilion
"Kiddie Fun Day Sunday! Featuring the Berenstain Bears Meet and Greet plus other mascots!"

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
"Got 2 Believe (...In the Pinoy Writer)"
UP Press

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Committee report out soon

IN RESPONSE to the column of Neal H. Cruz last Aug. 19 which said that the Senate blue ribbon committee had frozen its inquiry into the Caloocan-Gotesco controversy, please be informed that the inquiry has been terminated.

The committee report thereon is being prepared.

—EMILIA A. PUEYO,
secretary, Senate blue ribbon committee, Rm. 501, 5/F GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or fax 897-4793, 89747-94; e-mail: readers advocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israeli troops gun down 4 Palestinians

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli troops shot dead four Palestinians in the West Bank early Sunday not far from a Jewish gravesite near Hebron, adding to an already bloody weekend in which seven other Palestinians, including two children, were killed.

Also Sunday, Israeli troops killed a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank town of Jenin in a fierce gun battle, Islamic Jihad sources said. Abdel Kareem Sadi, 16, the son of Bassam Sadi, the militant group's Jenin district leader, was shot in the back, the sources said. Two other gunmen were wounded in the fighting that erupted when troops entered a refugee camp early in the morning.

On Saturday, an Israeli helicopter fired missiles at a car, killing five Palestinians in the northern West Bank town of Toubas, including a militant and two children.

Also Saturday, a Palestinian gunman infiltrated the Jewish settlement of Har Bracha in the West Bank, wounding two Israelis before being shot dead.

The fresh wave of violence came on the heels of Israeli-Palestinian attempts to implement the first steps of a plan meant to lead to a wider truce in nearly two years of fighting. *AP*

Typhoon kills 42 in S. Korea

Death toll in flash floods, landslides expected to rise

RESCUE workers carry an elderly woman through floodwaters to a safer place at Kangnyung, 200 km east of Seoul. More than 80 people were feared dead or missing Sunday as typhoon "Rusa" swept across South Korea, triggering landslides and flash floods. AFP

SEOUL—The most powerful typhoon to hit the Korean peninsula in 40 years lost strength Sunday, after triggering flash floods and landslides in South Korea that left at least 42 people dead and 26 missing. The death toll was expected to rise.

The government's National Disaster Prevention and Countermeasures Headquarters was trying to confirm reports that 20 other people were swept away by floodwaters or buried in landslides caused by typhoon "Rusa."

Local media reported up to 88 people dead or missing. KBS TV said 49 people were killed and 39 others were missing.

Gust winds had ripped up trees and knocked down 7,800 electricity poles, causing a blackout for 1.16 million households. Some 240,000 homes still had no electricity on Sunday, and 140,000 homes remained without telephone service.

Parts of a field hockey stadium and other facilities built for the Sept. 29-Oct. 14 Asian Games were wrecked. The games, Asia's Olympics, is to be held in Busan, South Korea's second largest city.

More than 17,000 houses and buildings in low-lying areas were submerged, forcing 27,474 residents to take shelter at public buildings and schools. Floods inundated 5,110 hectares of farm land.

President Kim Dae-jung convened an emergency Cabinet meeting Sunday and ordered the government and military to mobilize all possible personnel and equipment for rescue and repair operations.

Rusa, the Malaysian word for deer, is the most powerful typhoon to hit the Korean peninsula since Sarah in 1959. It has dumped up to 89 cm of rain over the weekend in eastern and southern South Korea. It left the peninsula Sunday afternoon through the eastern coast without causing further damage.

With rains subsiding, anti-disaster officials began cleaning roads and railways that were cut off by floods and landslides. Authorities had closed parts of four rail lines and 17 major roads including four highways on Saturday. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Killers of 2 Americans hunted

TIMIKA, Indonesia—Government forces exchanged fire with a group of unidentified men Sunday near where two American schoolteachers and an Indonesian were shot dead by gunmen close to a huge copper and gold mine, a senior officer said. "At 8 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday) there was a shootout between our forces and an armed group. We have no other details," Papua military chief Maj. Gen. Simbolon Mahadin said in a telephone interview. Officers said the Army and police had launched a major operation to hunt down the gunmen who also wounded at least 10 other people, including six US citizens, in Saturday's attack near the Grasberg mine, which is run by a US corporation. It was the bloodiest incident involving foreigners in almost four decades of intermittent warfare between government forces and separatist rebels in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua. *AP*

Gang of rapists to hang

DERA GHAZI KHAN, Pakistan —A judge early Sunday sentenced six men to death by hanging in the gang-rape of a woman to punish her family—a case closely watched by government officials and international human rights groups. Eight men were acquitted. Judge Zulifquar Ali Malik issued the verdict shortly after midnight in his chambers with all 14 defendants present. Those receiving the death sentence included four accused of the actual rape and two members of a tribal council that ordered the June 22 assault in the village of Meerwala. They also were fined 40,000 rupees ($660) apiece. The eight who were acquitted were also members of the council. The rape was ordered by the council after a high-status clan, the Mastois, accused the victim's brother of having sex with one of their women. The victim's family is from a low-status clan. *AP*

Gadhafi: Libya no rogue state

CAIRO—Eager to shake off his pariah image, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi said Saturday his country is no longer a rogue state and had detained some Islamists suspected of links with the al-Qaida group. In future, Libya will follow an African Union line on relations with the United States and Israel, Gadhafi said in a speech marking the anniversary of the 1969 coup in which he took power. He disclosed that Libya had detained some Islamic fundamentalists and former fighters from Afghanistan who were thought to be connected to al-Qaida, the terror group blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington. Gadhafi had previously said he would co-operate with the war on terrorism, but he had not spoken of detaining people linked to al-Qaida. He said the detainees—for whom he did not give a number—would be treated the same way the United States treats its terror suspects at its Guantanamo Bay base in Cuba. *AP*

Maoists attack car showroom

KATMANDU—Suspected Maoist rebels attacked a used car showroom in Nepal's capital on Sunday, police said. No one was injured in the attack, the latest in a series since the government lifted a state of emergency last week. The state-run National News Agency said Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was cutting short his trip abroad and rushing home. He was in Europe on his way to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa. Guards at the car dealership said four people armed with shotguns and pistols attacked the showroom and damaged at least two dozen cars. They fired their guns in the air and left an explosive device, the guards said. The guards, who were afraid to give their names, said they managed to toss the explosive out on the street, and it exploded upon hitting the ground. Windows in nearby houses were damaged. *AP*

80 Bhutto supporters arrested

LARKANA, Pakistan—In the dusty interior of southern Sindh province, the heartland of support for former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, police swept through the homes of her supporters overnight arresting 80 people in an attempt to blunt anti-government protests, her lawyer, Hyatt Soomro, said Sunday. The arrests come as Pakistan's military president Gen. Pervez Musharraf is lifting a protracted ban on political activities just one month before Pakistan's Oct. 10 Parliamentary elections. About 2,000 of Bhutto's supporters chanted slogans outside the courtroom in Larkana, where returning officers were mulling over another of Bhutto's nomination papers to decide whether to allow her to contest the federal Parliament seat in Larkana. *AP*

Dole: Bush needs Congress OK

WASHINGTON—Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole stepped into the intensifying US debate on Iraq on Sunday, urging President George W. Bush to seek congressional approval for any plan to topple Saddam Hussein in order to present a united front. In an op-ed piece published in The Washington Post, Dole agreed with Bush's assessment that the Iraqi leader posed an imminent threat that demands immediate attention. *Reuters*

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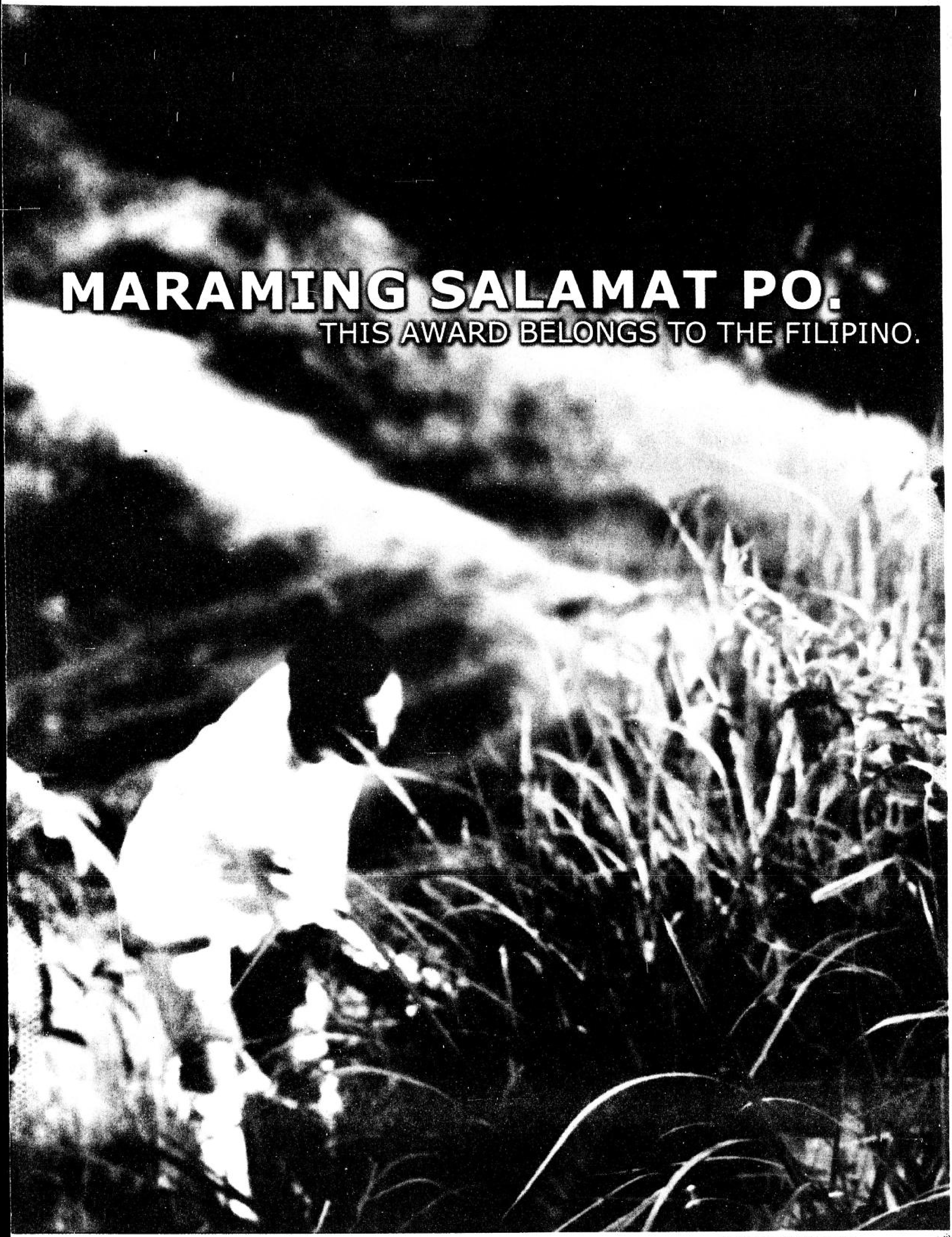

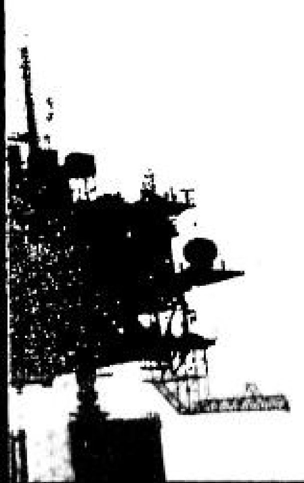

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SC urged to probe judge in land deals

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio judge who blew the whistle on alleged graft and ethical violations attributed to five of his fellow judges here asked Chief Justice Hilario Davide last week to investigate an alleged questionable P266-million land transaction involving another colleague.

Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here questioned the propriety of a regional trial court judge in Metro Manila, who used to be assigned here, for allegedly facilitating the sale of 8.8 hectares of agricultural land through a special power of attorney issued to him by a private land owner.

Ayson, in an Aug. 21 report to Davide, claimed that the same judge obtained an authorization from the Philippine National Bank branch here to facilitate the exemption of 20 real estate assets from the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law on July 20, 2000. The judge, Ayson claimed, also handled the sale of the PNB assets.

"These (transactions) should be investigated because a judge should not be party to any extra-judicial situation that will later be the subject of the courts," Ayson said.

"A judge shall refrain from financial and business dealings that tend to reflect adversely on the court's impartiality, interfere with the performance of judicial activities or increase involvement with lawyers of persons likely to come before the court," he said.

Ayson said several of the 45 real estate properties in Barangay Longlong in La Trinidad, Benguet, and all under the name of Purita Llorente, were subjects of court cases in Baguio.

Davide immediately ordered an investigation, according to an Aug. 26 Supreme Court dispatch sent to Ayson.

Citing seven provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct, Ayson said the erring judge had "engaged in the private practice of law" in violation of Rule 5.07, which prohibits judges from courting and servicing clients.

He said a judge "should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities; (and) should so behave at all times as to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

"The prestige of the judicial office shall not be used or lent to advance the private interest of others or convey or permit others to convey the impressions that they are in a special position to influence the judge," Ayson said.

An ongoing Court of Appeals investigative trial that was directed by Davide in February to respond to Ayson's complaints against five Baguio judges had been stalled by the appointment of Court of Appeals Justice Romeo Callejo to the Supreme Court.

Ayson told the INQUIRER that he learned of the anomaly when he came across a pending court case involving the Benguet Green Meadows CMP project.

Green Meadows president Alfredo Tipayno and the NEJ Social Services Foundation Inc. bought the Llorente properties for P700 per square meter, according to an Aug. 11, 2001 contract signed by Tipayno and the accused judge.

"The commercial rates in Longlong have since shot up when (former President Fidel) Ramos built a bypass road to La Trinidad that tripled land prices. The sale should be worth P3,000 per square meter," Ayson said. This amounts to a prospective sale of P266 million.

'Bio-man' inspires Kalinga town to adopt plan on solid waste

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TABUK, Kalinga—Mayor Camilo Lammawin's vision to create a solid waste management plan (SWMP) for this first class town (pop: 78,000) was conceived even before he became mayor last year.

While at the Sun Valley subdivision in Paranaque City, he saw a bike-riding man, called "Bio-man," collect garbage from each household.

"If the wastes were not properly segregated, he would not collect it. That is why residents were forced to properly dispose of their garbage there," Lammawin, 42, told the INQUIRER.

He said he was not aware that he was the first mayor to submit a 10-year SWMP, "but we really have to respond to Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) because it is useless if we implement this without a real plan."

"We are expecting Manila to submit its own SWMP because sila ang may malaking problema (they have the biggest solid waste management problem)," he added.

Lammawin said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources promised to give financial assistance to their town after he submitted Tabuk's SWMP to the department Aug. 26.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, one of the principal authors of RA 9003, praised Lammawin for being the first official to comply with the law.

"Mayor Lammawin's prompt compliance with the provisions of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act should serve as an example for other cities and towns nationwide to formulate their own waste management plans," Alvarez said.

RA 9003 mandates that the waste management plan should contain "implementable" strategies and activities that encourage re-use, recycling and composting of waste. The plan should have specific schedules and timetables, targets and measurable indicators of achievement.

Lammawin said Tabuk's SWMP was not an overnight idea.

Tabuk, about 495 kilometer north of Manila and the center of trade and commerce in Kalinga, generates 11,845 kilograms of garbage a month.

10-year plan

Its solid waste management plan projects a 10-year population growth and waste generation until 2011 and outlines a plan of action consistent with RA 9003.

Lammawin said the local government started garbage collection in the early 1990s. Garbage from 40 villages of Tabuk then had to be contained in temporary landfill sites. This program was reinforced by ordinances prohibiting the indiscriminate throwing of garbage in the town.

The town's former landfill near a river in Barangay Bulanao was washed away after a typhoon struck the province last year.

Other alternative landfill sites in the town were not used because of questions on social acceptability, he said.

"At that time, we had no sites to dump our garbage for two months, many people flocked here so we saw the immediacy of the problem then. People seemed unconcerned about the growing garbage generation so we came up with temporary dumpsites," he said.

It was only last year that the local government bought another landfill site in Barangay Dilag, 12 km from Barangay Bulanao.

"But this is temporary because when population increases, this will generate more garbage and wastes so we have to come up with a long term plan," Lammawin said.

The creation of the SWMP started last year after the organization of the municipal solid waste management board (MSWMB), through the help of consultants from the Ecological Management and Sanitation Inc. (EMSI).

Lammawin said they also talked with members of community organizations and residents to help the municipal government in its solid waste management campaign by cleaning their surroundings.

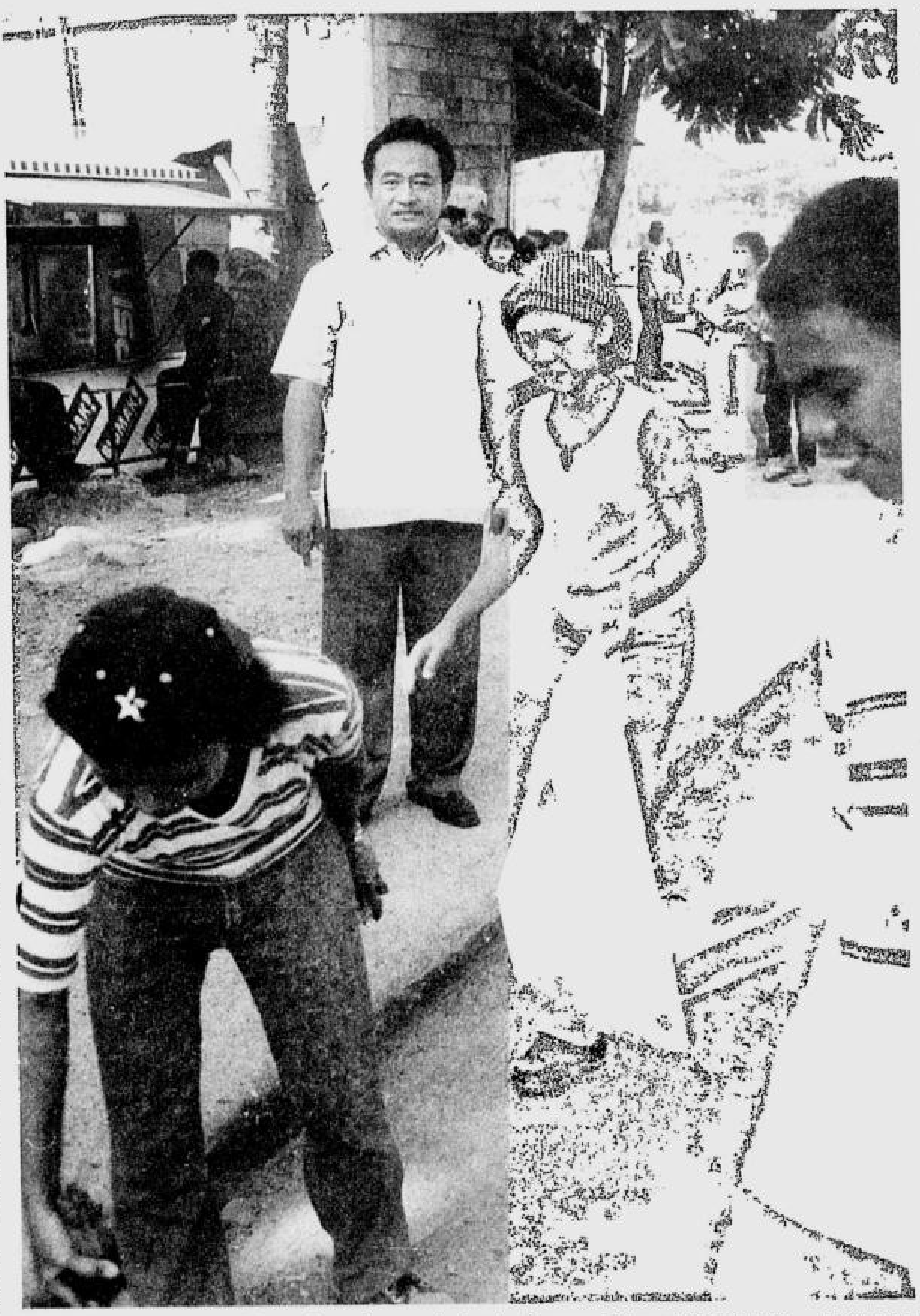
Composting

He said the SWMP aims to reduce garbage collection from the household level through composting. Their plan also involves training village women to recycle and do composting.

"Women are the ones left in their houses, that is why they are our targets," Lammawin said.

Tabuk women will be trained this month through a financial assistance from the Integrated Community Health Sanitation Program of the Department of Health.

Lammawin said under the SWMP, two economic centers or eco-centers will be established. The centers will recycle and compost garbage and transform it into organic fertilizer.



MAYOR Lammawin supervising student-volunteers in cleaning Barangay Bulanao in Tabuk town. BEN MOSES EBREO

The centers will be put up in Barangay Bulanao, Tabuk's biggest village in terms of population and land area, and Barangay Dagupan, where two public markets are located.

"These areas are major generators of garbage. We have to educate the people (in these areas) on how we can turn garbage into something useful," Lammawin said.

Economic sheds or eco sheds will also be placed in Barangays Bulanao, Dagupan Centro, Dagupan West and Casingayan, the urban centers of the town.

These are strategic areas or drop-off points where garbage from households are collected and segregated.

Sorting out

But Lammawin said even with these centers, the local government is still encouraging households to sort out garbage from biodegradable and non-biodegrable.

He said most garbage collected in the town come from agricultural wastes, such as rice straws and hulls, that can be used for mushroom production or as organic fertilizers.

"While we are basically an agricultural town, investments are coming in and gradually, we might become a commercial and industrial town. That is why we have to start this plan now," Lammawin said.

He said one of the purposes of the SWMP is to turn agricultural wastes into productive materials to help farmers and households earn from proper use and disposal of garbage.

He lamented that local governments solely shoulder the garbage collection in other areas of the country.

"This is the common orientation among us now. We need to (realize) that garbage is everybody's concern and it starts from the household level. I would like to maintain a simple plan," he said.

But Lammawin said before the SWMP equipment and facilities are put in place, "we have to establish an intensive social preparation among the community."

The INQUIRER, in a visit to Tabuk on Saturday, noticed students cleaning up sidewalks and streets of Barangay Bulanao.

DENR hit for inaction on coal plant

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The provincial board here denounced officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for allegedly protecting the owners of the 1,200-megawatt Sual coal-fired power plant amid accusations that the plant was emitting toxic fumes and chemicals.

During the board's Question Hour last Friday, DENR officials led by Reynaldo Alcanses, environmental impact assessment division chief of the DENR central office, admitted that they were not monitoring Sual's activities, like its stack emissions and ash disposal procedures.

The DENR officials were questioned on the allegations of Greenpeace, an international environmental activist group, that the plant in Sual town causes environmental pollution through carbon emission and releases heavy metals.

Board Member Juan Amor accused the DENR officials of "sleeping on their job" and "not giving responsible responses" when asked if the DENR had validated Greenpeace's studies and if it had conducted investigation on its own.

"I'm very disappointed. They are not an ally (of the Pangasinan people) but are protectors of Mirant (the plant's owner). It takes (Greenpeace) to expose the pollution caused by the plant," Amor said.

"You should get the (Greenpeace) reports and analyze them," Amor told the officials.

Alcanses admitted the DENR did not know about the Greenpeace report and that the agency had not conducted similar studies on the plant's effects on the environment of Sual.

When asked by the board about the ash storms early this year that caused skin rashes and respiratory diseases among residents of villages near the plant, Alcanses said the DENR did not receive any report on the incident.

Alcanses said it was Mirant that "monitors itself and submits the report" to the DENR's environmental management bureau which validates if the "reports are within standards."

He said the DENR has a regional monitoring team to watch over the Sual plant. But Alcanses admitted that there had been no studies conducted by the team on stack emission and ash disposal procedures of the plant.

Esperanza Sajul, senior chief of the DENR monitoring system, also admitted not knowing about the overflowing of Sual's ash disposal ponds last July.

"There was no report," she said.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Farmer prepares raps vs soldiers for torture, wife's death

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A 34-year-old farmer here who was accused of being a member of the New People's Army sought the assistant of the Commission on Human Rights, claiming he was tortured by his military captors.

Roel Concha, of Barangay Ginabucan in the northern town of Catmon, said the team of soldiers from the 78th Infantry Battalion led by Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay tortured him so that he would be forced to admit he was a rebel.

Concha's wife, Riza, was found dead later after the military interrogated Concha. The military claimed that Riza committed suicide but Concha said he could not believed it since his wife suffered stab wounds in her stomach, breast and neck.

Concha was also preparing criminal charges against the members of the 78th IB, which is based in Sogod town, before the Visayas Ombudsman. Two other farmers would join Concha in filing the complaint against the soldiers.

Charges of arbitrary, illegal detention, forced interrogation, torture, beating, grave threats, warrantless arrest, arbitrary detention, and murder would be filed anytime this week.

In his statement, Concha said Sumagaysay and three other soldiers searched his house without a warrant.

He said on Aug. 23, 2002 at around 9 a.m., a military helicopter hovered over his house. Several minutes after, Sumagaysay and his men disembarked and went directly to his house.

Concha said he was with his wife when Sumagaysay talked to him and confronted him with the allegation that he was a rebel. He also said he was interrogated without a lawyer. He said the military seized a notebook allegedly containing anti-government statements. He denied it was his, but admitted ownership of a .357 revolver that was taken from his house.

He said the soldiers started beating him around 4 p.m., using a rifle butt, and was threatened with execution.

He said the interrogation continued until midnight. The next day, the torture continued and became more severe—his hands and feet were tied and his head wrapped in plastic as he lay on the floor.

" . . . I could hardly breathe. I even defecated because of fear," he said in Cebuano.

Concha said he would want the body of his wife exhumed, as he could not believe she committed suicide.

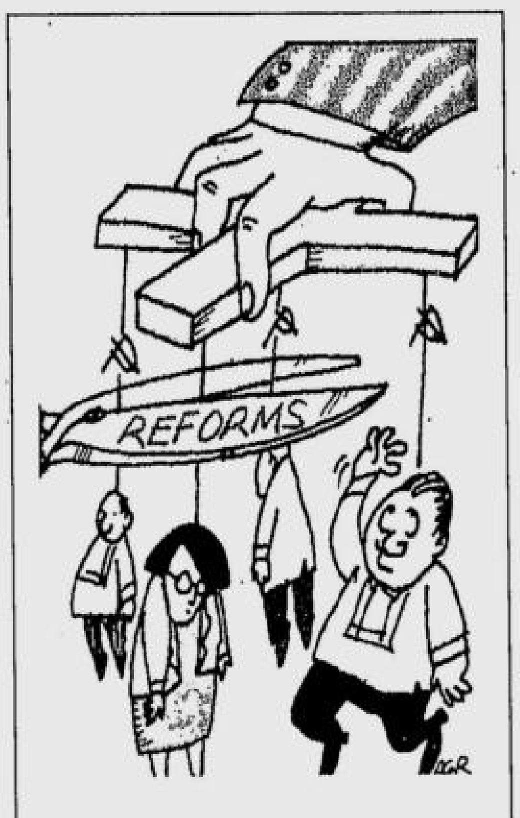
He said on Aug. 24 around 6 a.m., Riza went out of the house to fetch water from a well 500 meters away and never returned.

Two other farmers, Noe Muldo and Edgar Duran, neighbors of Cocha, said soldiers also interrogated them and accused them of being NPA rebels.

Muldo said a group of soldiers went to his house on Aug. 24 and accused him a possessing anti-government documents. He also alleged they tied his neck with a streamer and threatened to kill him.

Duran said 14 soldiers came for him. He said he and his captors passed by the house of Cocha and he saw his neighbor hog-tied and being questioned.

Duran said he and Muldo were flown by helicopter to the 78th IB in Sogod and were detained and questioned. They were released Aug 25, he said.



Politicos star in workshop on poll fund ethics

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Political parties in the country on Friday started a three-day workshop to discuss and unite on what steps to take to start reforms in campaign finance.

Reforms in political finance—transparency and accountability in campaign funds, regulating party and candidate financing, fundraising, among others—were "crucial issues" because these determine the kind of government and politicians the country has, according to Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

"In this country, you can count in both hands the number of families and vested interests who are financing elections. When they finance elections that means they finance politicians. And when they finance politicians they also control policies. That's how bad it is," he said before the workshop's opening at Clark's Holiday Inn.

Angara said the campaign finance reforms were "as critical as our lack of money to run our government because as long as we elect bad politicians then we will have a bad country and bad politics."

Aside from the LDP, the ruling Lakas-NUCD, the Liberal Party, Nationalist People's Coalition, Nacionalista Party, PDP-Laban, other national political parties as Akbayan and non-government organizations seeking electoral reforms joined the workshop.

The organizers of the event were the National Institute for Policy Studies, the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms and the Strategic Research Institute.

The Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, the Asia Foundation, the United Nations Development Program and the National Democratic Institute supported the workshop.

Angara clarified that the event was not in preparation for the 2004 elections.

"It's a preparation for our politics and this is already late and belated. We should be doing this 10 years ago," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

DepEd exec says Barbers politicking

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The director of the Department of Education in Eastern Visayas (DepEd-8) has assailed Sen. Robert Barbers for playing politics by allegedly blocking her transfer to Central Visayas.

"I will fight him (Barbers). I will prove to him that I am not afraid of him. He should not use his position as senator to get his way," said Sol Matugas.

Matugas said she was ready to assume the position of director of DepEd in Central Visayas based in Cebu City when she received an order from then acting Education Secretary Ramon Bacani, putting on hold her re-assignment.

She said she was surprised by Bacani's order because a turnover ceremony was held on Wednesday where Celedonio Layon formally took over as DepEd-8 director.

She said she received an order from Bacani dated Aug. 21, directing her and Layon "to continue serving in your respective stations until further advice from this office."

Layon is DepEd regional director of the Caraga region.

Pablo Antopina, DepEd-7 director who was set to retire, was told to stay in his post "until the assignment or appointment of a new regional director. . ."

The new order was issued five days after Matugas received a letter from Bacani on Aug. 16, informing her that she would replace Antopina.

Matugas said she believed that her transfer to Cebu was stopped by Barbers whom she described as a political rival of their family.

Her husband is former Surigao del Norte Gov. Francisco Matugas who ran against and was defeated by the senator's son during the 2001 elections.

NO TAKERS

N. Vizcaya top cop post stays vacant

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Urgently needed: Police director for Nueva Vizcaya. Special qualification: Willing to work even without jueteng payoff.

Provincial officials here are left without enough candidates for provincial police director because the "no-jueteng policy" of the province is driving off qualified aspirants, according to a police source here.

The lack of candidates has delayed the scheduled relief of Senior Supt. Romeo Hilomen, whose two-year term as Nueva Vizcaya police chief expired on June 15.

"Those who are qualified would not want to apply because of one reason: Who would want to be the PD (police director) in a province that has no source of livelihood for himself?" the source said.

Despite the supposed all-out drive by the Macapagal administration to stop the illegal numbers game, it is only Nueva Vizcaya in the Northern Luzon area that has remained "jueteng-free."

It is no secret, the source said, that in provinces where jueteng is rampant, government officials and police chiefs are being given "a sumptuous amount" of bribe from financiers to allow the operation of the illegal numbers game.

Despite this problem, Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani said the "no-jueteng" policy of the province stands and would not be reversed.

"There's no way we (in the provincial government) will ever compromise our position. If no one wants to come and Colonel Hilomen has to leave, then I may have to appoint an OIC (officer-in-charge) from among the officers here," Agbayani said.

He said as early as May 27, Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., then Cagayan Valley police director, had already endorsed the names of three candidates as Hilomen's possible replacements.

But of the three, only Senior Supt. Felix Caddali had shown interest in the post, having been the only one to submit his credentials, Agbayani said.

"Under the law, there should be at least three candidates from whom we could choose. It is our stand that with only one, this (selection) process becomes farcical," he said.

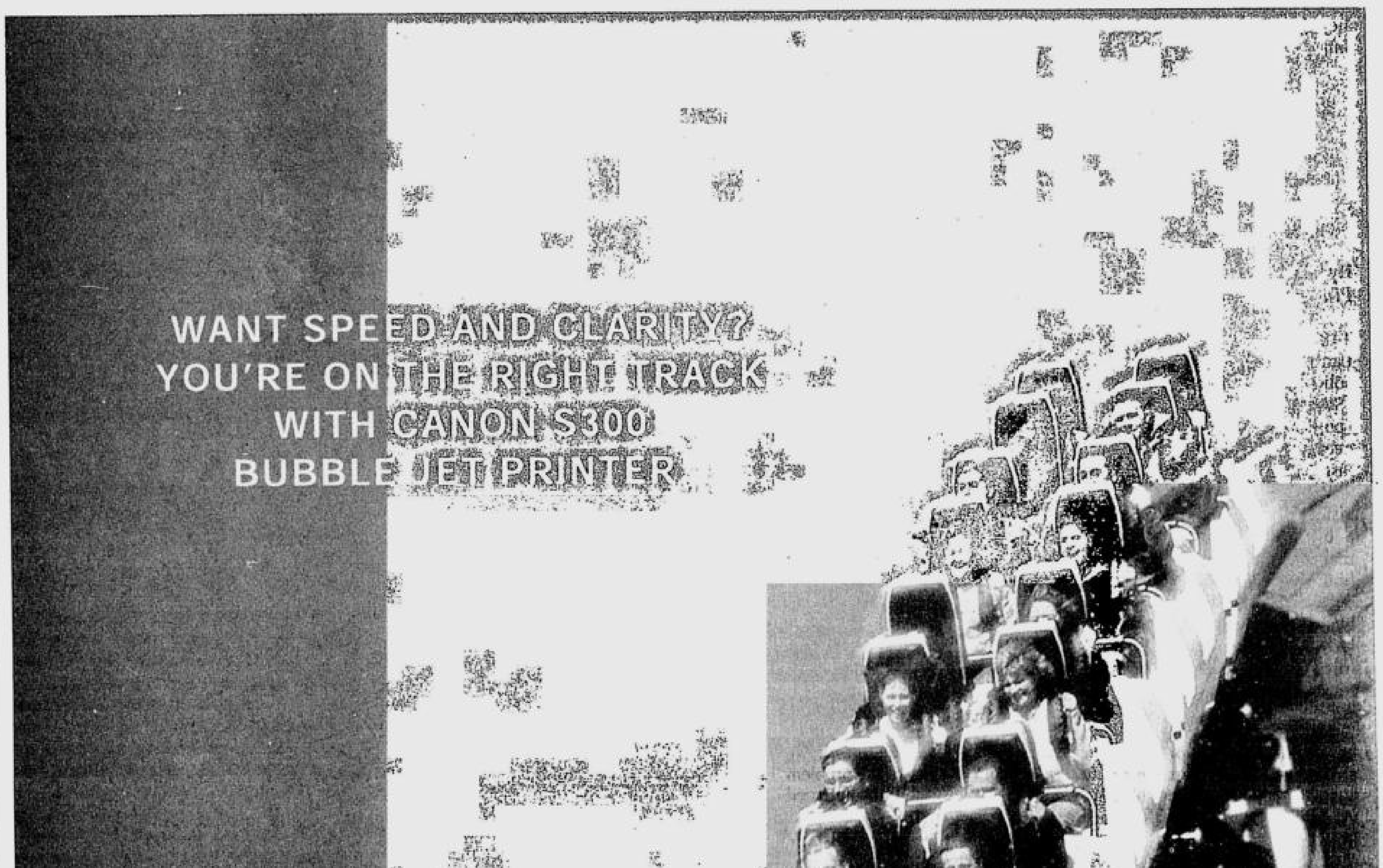
But Agbayani hinted that the move could be a deliberate attempt for some high-ranking police officials to manipulate the process to install their personal choices.

"Some were calling me up, asking that I choose their candidate, but I always explain to them that here in Nueva Vizcaya, it is not the governor alone who makes the choice but the provincial peace and order council," Agbayani said.

He said he would ask the Philippine National Police to renew its short list of candidates replacing the two "disinterested candidates."

"As soon as the minimum requirement of three candidates is met, the PPOC will immediately make its choice," he said.

Hilomen said he would stay in his post until his replacement is named. "I have no choice but to wait for my replacement. In the meantime, I just have to do my job," he said.



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THE GRAND SCAM OF THE MILLENNIUM

How economic sabotage perpetrated by former BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez cost the government P10-Billion and aggravated a ballooning budget deficit

(Privilege Speech of REP. ANICETO G. SALUDO, JR. of the Lone District of Southern Leyte at the House of Representatives, 27 August 2002)

HONORABLE SPEAKER,

I stood before this august chamber less than a month ago to alert our people to the huge shortfall in the government's tax collection effort.

I pointed out in my speech that for the first time in two decades, the Bureau of Internal Revenue posted a double-digit tax collection shortfall in the first six months of this year amounting to PhP33.4 billion.

I emphasized that this huge shortfall, which is the worst performance of the BIR in the postwar era, was the result of the gross mismanagement and outright violation of our tax laws by no less than the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Rene Bañez.

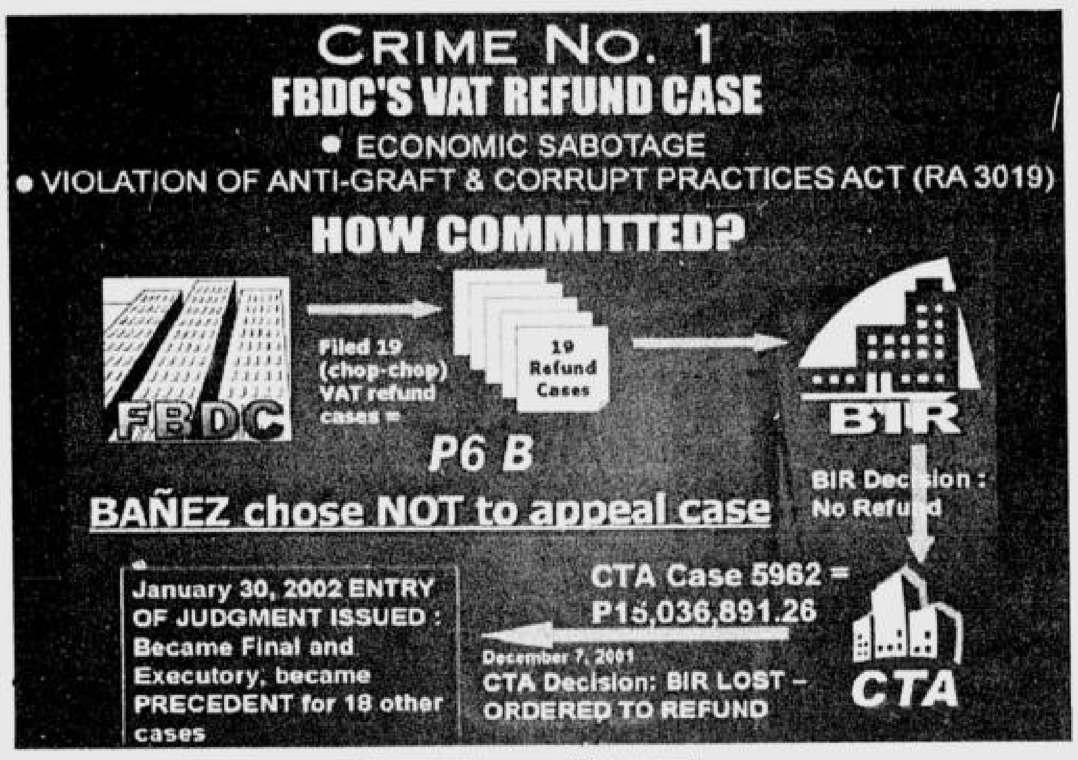
And I urged the President to expel Mr. Bañez from office if only to restore our people's faith and confidence in the government's revenue collecting arm.

Last August 19, however, Bañez tendered his resignation as BIR chief, claiming that saboteurs within the bureau were deliberately cutting back on tax collections and undermining the reforms he had initiated.

While Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho even thanked Bañez "for his patriotism and self-sacrifice" and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo accepted the BIR chief's resignation "with a sad heart," I have it on good authority that instead of voluntarily stepping down from his post, Bañez was actually forced to resign by Malacañang because of his failure to meet the BIR's tax collection targets.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, he was booted out for sheer incompetence, barely a year after the President herself had extolled his virtues in her first State-of-the-Nation Address in July 2001.

I know for a fact that the vast majority of BIR officials and rank-and-file are very thankful right this very moment that Bañez has packed his bags.



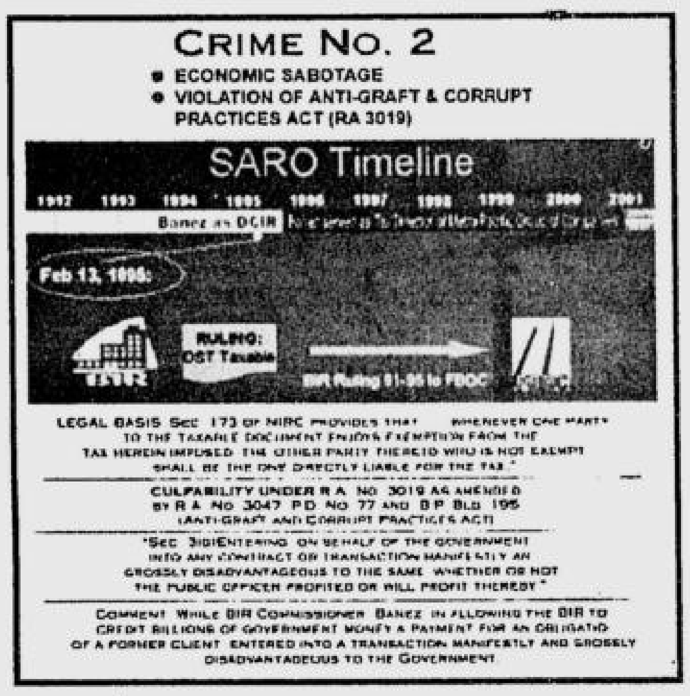
CRIME NO. 1

FBDC'S VAT REFUND CASE

- ECONOMIC SABOTAGE
- VIOLATION OF ANTI-GRAFT & CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT (RA 3019)

HOW COMMITTED?

FBDC
Filed 19 (chop-chop) VAT refund cases =
19 Refund Cases
P6 B
BIR
BAÑEZ chose NOT to appeal case
BIR Decision : No Refund
CTA Case 5962 = P15,036,891.26
December 7, 2001
CTA Decision: BIR LOST – ORDERED TO REFUND
CTA
January 30, 2002 ENTRY OF JUDGMENT ISSUED : Became Final and Executory, became PRECEDENT for 18 other cases



CRIME NO. 2

- ECONOMIC SABOTAGE
- VIOLATION OF ANTI-GRAFT & CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT (RA 3019)

LEGAL BASIS Sec 173 of NIRC provides that whenever one party to the taxable document enjoys exemption from the tax herein imposed the other party thereto who is not exempt shall be the one directly liable for the tax."

CULPABILITY UNDER R A No 3019 AS AMENDED BY R A No 3047 P D No 77 AND B P Blg 195 (ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT)

"Sec 3(g) Entering on behalf of the government into any contract or transaction manifestly an grossly disadvantageous to the same whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby."

Comment While BIR Commissioner Banez in allowing the BIR to credit billions of government money a payment for an obligation of a former client entered into a transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the Government

> *'The real saboteurs in the BIR are the very same people that Bañez appointed to their positions.'*

I too should be very happy that Bañez is now out of the BIR. But while I am glad that Bañez has stepped down from his lofty perch, he cited the wrong reason for doing so.

His claim that saboteurs are undermining the reforms which he initiated in the BIR flies in the face of reality.

My question is: Who are these saboteurs whom Bañez claimed were out to undermine the BIR's collection targets?

Isn't it a fact that upon his assumption to office in 2001, Bañez promptly reshuffled BIR personnel and posted his trusted men in key positions? Ninety (90) percent of BIR collections come from the Large Taxpayers Service and the Metro Manila Revenue District Offices. These key offices are now headed by Bañez appointees, including the Deputy Commissioners for Operations and Legal Group.

Even a cursory examination of the BIR's tax collection performance, published in several newspapers on August 16 this year, would reveal that, the biggest shortfalls in tax collection were posted by his own hand-picked people.

The real saboteurs in the BIR, Mr. Speaker, are the very same people that Bañez appointed to their positions.

The Bañez appointees responsible for the biggest tax collection shortfalls in the first six months of this year are the real saboteurs in the BIR.

The biggest saboteur in the BIR, however, is no less than Bañez himself.

I do not intend to pillory Mr. Bañez before the court of public opinion when he has already resigned his position.

But Bañez is not down and out at all. As a matter of fact, the conspiracy which he led to defraud the government of precious revenue makes previous scams look like child's play.

My question is: Can 13,000 employees of the BIR be so wrong and only Bañez is so right?

I am convinced, based on a careful scrutiny of the facts, that if indeed there has been sabotage within the BIR, it is none other than Mr. Bañez himself who should be held responsible for it.

Bañez is the biggest saboteur in the BIR, and he knows it.

Let me cite irrefutable proof that Mr. Bañez is not the knight in shining armor that he wanted us to believe, but a plunderer and economic saboteur of the first order who should instead be placed behind bars.

Mr. Speaker, BIR will stand to lose as much as P10 billion in tax revenue collections, including P6 billion in tax credit and P1.19 billion in Special Allotment Release Order, or SARO, in the Grand Scam of the Millennium.

Of this amount, P15 million in tax credit has already been consummated.

Mr. Speaker, I accuse Bañez of economic sabotage, violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law, and gross negligence in the VAT tax credit case involving the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation.

How did this big scam take place?

FBDC filed a total of 19 tax credit/refund claims with the BIR involving a total of P6 billion. One of the claims involving P15 million was rejected by the BIR when Bañez was not yet a commissioner. FBDC appealed the case to the Court of Tax Appeals and obtained a favorable decision. The BIR with Bañez already as commissioner should have appealed the decision. But he chose to protect his former employer and purposely did not file an appeal.

The Entry of Judgment issued by the Court of Tax Appeals on January 30, 2002 became final and executory, setting a precedent for the other remaining cases.

As a result of Bañez's failure to appeal, government was defrauded of P15 million and ultimately will stand to lose a total of P6 billion.

Bañez is also liable for economic sabotage and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law in the case of the Special Allotment Release Order as payment for FBDC's Documentary Stamp Tax liability.

Let me explain this in detail, Mr. Speaker.

In 1995, Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) won the bid in the sale of 214 hectares of Fort Bonifacio land for P71.2 billion through a promissory note.

On February 13, 1995, the BIR issued Ruling 91-95 which stated that FBDC is liable to pay DST on the sale.

RA 7917 Amending RA 7227 exempted BCDA from all forms of tax but this exemption cannot be extended to FBDC, being a private corporation.

CRIME NO. 3

- VIOLATION OF ANTI-GRAFT & CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT (RA 3019)

REDUCTION OF ZONAL VALUATION OF FORT BONIFACIO LAND

(From P100,000 per sq.mt to P35,000 per sq.mt)

On December 10, 1999, the BIR issued a P1.068 billion tax assessment to FBDC for DST on the sale of the 214 hectares of Fort Bonifacio land.

On November 27, 2000, DBM issued Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) for DST on the sale of the property. This was sourced from "Military Camps Sale Proceeds Fund" to cover payment of DST, transfer fees, 5% withholding tax, and registration fees relative to the sale of FB land.

In effect, Mr. Speaker, BCDA assumed the tax obligation of FBDC in the amount of P1.18 billion.

On February 19, 2001, the Bureau of Treasury certified the correctness of the amount in the Journal Voucher dated December 29, 2000 and availability of appropriations for SARO dated November 27, 2000. Thereafter, Accounting Service approved the crediting of the amount to the account of the BIR. Note that Bañez was already the BIR Commissioner at this time.

On February 28, 2001, the BIR was furnished a copy of the approved SARO as payment for FBDC's DST liability which was credited as part of BIR collections in 2001. Without this, 2001 collections would have resulted to shortfall.

The issue here, Mr. Speaker, is why did government, through BCDA, pay for the liability of FBDC, a private corporation?

Bañez is culpable here on five grounds.

One, Bañez allowed the crediting of billions of pesos to pay the tax obligations of a former private client, thus causing undue injury to the government and giving his former client unwarranted benefits and advantage.

Two, Bañez also entered into a transaction grossly and manifestly disadvantageous to the government.

Three, Bañez directly or indirectly intervened in a transaction where he had financial interest.

Four, Bañez directly or indirectly became interested or had material interest in a transaction requiring approval of the BIR of which he was then the head.

And five, Bañez knowingly granted a benefit in favor of a former private client not qualified for or not legally entitled to such payment.

But that is not all, Mr. Speaker.

I also accuse Bañez of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law in the case of the reduction of the zonal valuation of Fort Bonifacio land.

Using the influence of his high position, Bañez caused the reduction of the valuation of Fort Bonifacio land from P100,000 per square meter to P35,000 per square meter.

While other taxpayers would have to wait for months or years before they can get a BIR endorsement for reduction of valuation, FBDC managed to obtain the reduced valuation in a very short period.

In this case, Bañez gave FBDC, a private corporation, unwarranted benefits that directly led to huge losses in tax revenues for the government.

What I have explained in detail, Mr. Speaker, is how Bañez brazenly and wantonly favored private interests at the expense of the public welfare.

Through these schemes I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, private corporations may have avoided payment of taxes to the government by as much as P10 billion because of Bañez's rulings when he was still BIR chief.

What we have here is in fact a grand conspiracy by Bañez, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, Smart Communications and the Metro Pacific Corporation to reduce payment of taxes to the government.

This is pure and simple economic sabotage, Mr. Speaker.

Published reports on the top 1000 corporations would show that while the telecommunications giant PLDT and other Metro Pacific affiliates and subsidiaries posted hefty profits year after year, the amount of taxes they pay to the government has substantially diminished year after year, thanks to Bañez.

May I point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is the same Rene Bañez who before his appointment as BIR Commissioner worked as Vice President of Metro Pacific Corporation, and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Smart Communications, both of which are now headed by Manuel Pangilinan.

Pangilinan, as we all know, is the chair and CEO of PLDT, Smart Communications and Metro Pacific Corporation.

What is unfortunate in this whole sordid episode is that Bañez was conniving with his former employer in evading payment of the correct taxes due the government even as he was harping on reforming the country's tax collection system.

We have a term in the vernacular, bantay-salakay, that aptly describes what Bañez did in the BIR during his watch.

Bañez is not part of the solution at the BIR, he is a big part of the problem.

And that is why, Mr. Speaker, I now ask the House good government and the ways and means committees to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the performance of Mr. Bañez while in office. This should be without prejudice to the filing of criminal charges against him for plunder, economic sabotage and gross violation of the anti-graft and corrupt practices law.

If this administration is really serious about building a strong republic, then it has to send Bañez and his co-conspirators to jail.

Manuel Pangilinan, Bañez's former boss in Metro Pacific Corporation, should be investigated for his involvement in this tax scam.

And the Salim Group should likewise be investigated for brazen violation of our Constitution.

The sooner we undertake genuine tax reform, the better for the country, Mr. Speaker.

> *'If this administration is really serious about building a strong republic, then it has to send Bañez and his co-conspirators to jail....*
> *Manuel Pangilinan, Bañez's former boss in Metro Pacific Corporation, should be investigated for his involvement in this tax scam.....*
> *And the Salim Group should likewise be investigated for brazen violation of our Constitution.'*

Good governance should start with those who are responsible for making the bureaucracy run, and run efficiently.

And I believe that the Bureau of Internal Revenue should be headed by someone who is not only competent to handle the complex requirements of the job, but also possesses an unsullied integrity, untainted by conflict of interest.

The President should appoint someone with clean hands to take over the job of BIR Commissioner.

The next BIR chief should be free and unburdened by any conflict of interest arising from former employment with the big auditing and accounting firms in the country.

If the President chooses the permanent successor of Bañez, then she should choose someone whose expertise and integrity are completely beyond reproach.

To do otherwise is to bring this government, and the nation as a whole, hostage to private interests.

This is not what a strong republic is all about, and this is not what our people want.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Air Force chief seen as Cimatu's successor

From page A1

will show that PGMA is in control of the situation and she is not afraid to appoint the brother of an opposition figure," the source said.

The source said Defensor's appointment could surprise and even shock some quarters "but the President believes that Defensor is highly qualified and it will be for the best of the Armed Forces and the country as well."

It may surprise a lot of people because Defensor, according to the book "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," suggested on Jan. 19 and 20 to then AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes that a snap election be called instead of giving the presidency to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reyes rejected Defensor's proposal and withdrew his support for Estrada, according to INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila, author of the book. Defensor said Doronila's account was inaccurate.

Coup plot

Others may object to the appointment of Defensor to the top AFP post because he had been reported to be among those who had plotted to stage a coup d'etat against Ms Macapagal.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday that the President would name her choice to the top military post on Sept. 4 although Ms Macapagal earlier extended Cimatu's term until Sept. 10.

Defensor himself is set to reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 12, but it does not pose a problem, according to the source. "I think he will be extended when he's appointed AFP chief of staff," he said.

The Palace source said "there will be no more extension for Cimatu, that's why Benjie (Defensor) will be appointed already."

The source said Defensor's distinguished career was the best argument for supporting his appointment to the top AFP post.

Gold Crosses

A member of Class 1969 of the Philippine Military Academy, Defensor saw action against Moro rebels in 1974 as a combat pilot of the 205th Helicopter Wing. Within a span of 24 hours, Defensor was awarded two Gold Crosses for flying missions under enemy fire in Sulu.

Defensor was to accumulate a total of three Gold Crosses and three Distinguished Service Stars, part of the more than 40 awards and decorations he had received.

At the PMA, he earned the highest grade in athletics while he was editor in chief of the academy's paper. He was also the president of PMA Class 1969.

Defensor, author of the Air Force modernization program, is a proven administrator, having won in 1998 and 1999 the best air base wing command award, according to the source.

He headed the Tactical Air Command, whose air combat missions proved vital in the government's campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000. For this, he was awarded the Presidential Citation for Military Leadership.

Defensor was appointed chief of the Air Force in October 2000. He got his third star in November of the same year.

He finished his general staff course at the Air Command and Staff College in Alabama, United States. His post-graduate studies included Master's degrees in communications from the University of the Philippines and public and business management from De La Salle University.

Defensor is married to Margaret Soliman. They have three children.

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Malaysia welcomes Central Asians

From page A1

Among those leaving the Malaysian state of Sabah is Abdullah Jalmaani, a widower. His houses had been razed. "All our three houses are gone," he said.

Asked if he was a documented migrant, he did not reply. "We will leave later in the day because they will burn the remaining houses. If a house doesn't get burned, the authorities will tear it apart," he said. "It is better to go home. It is better to live."

The widower said he was leaving because he wanted to see his son in Kidapawan, Cotabato, whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

A couple having lunch among other Filipinos outside the gate of Karamunting Port is also leaving.

They came to Malaysia with proper documents but lost them two years ago. So they have to go back to get their passports.

Like many Filipinos in Malaysia, they have been living here for several years now. Jose Gonzaga, who has been here for almost 10 years, makes a living as a stonebreaker for Hitachi.

He came to Sabah because of lack of job opportunities in the Philippines.

A saleslady in a small shoe shop said she was earning only a little more than a thousand Malaysian ringgit a month, but preferred to stay here.

"Life is more difficult in the Philippines. The Malaysians are kind if you're also kind," she said.

Myrna Salahuddin said she would like to return here. She is one of more than 3,000 Filipinos who have been ferried out of Malaysia in the past 10 days.

She spoke as she lined up at a makeshift passport-processing center to apply for papers that would allow her to go back to this Malaysian town where she had lived for years with her husband and five children.

No work, no hope

"I want my children to be able to go to school," she said. "In (the Philippines) there's no work for us. There is no hope for us."

An imam living in a shack, the only one left standing among the charred remains of the squatter area along the seashore, said he would also leave if he had enough money.

"I've been living here for 20 years now," he said.

A Philippine Red Cross volunteer from Tawi-Tawi who goes by the name of, incidentally, Ping Lacson, bewailed the Philippine government's negligence of Mindanao.

"I hope President Macapagal-Arroyo support us in Tawi-Tawi and other provinces" so we can help indigenous groups through medical missions, he said.

Another Red Cross volunteer, who asked not to be named, said the Philippine government "killed" the country a long time ago.

"These deportees could not have experienced all these things if our people are not starving. There's nothing in the Philippines. That's why they decided to come here. There were even two men who jumped overboard just right after we took off in our previous trip (to the Philippines)," the volunteer said.

He said the migrants were willing to suffer quietly so they could earn a little more.

"Your heart will break if you saw the earlier batch of deportees. Have you seen a baby with breathing difficulty while being carried by its crying mother?"

"Too much politics did nothing to us. It just emptied our pockets and our stomachs, but fattened the pork barrel of politicians. Nothing will happen to us now or ever," the volunteer said.

Cheap labor

After years of tolerating a large work force of cheap illicit laborers to support its construction and plantation-based industries and to work as housemaids, Malaysia is cracking down, citing security reasons.

Officials say more than 300,000 illegal immigrants have fled or been expelled from Malaysia in recent months, as tough new laws that oblige judges to sentence offenders to caning, prison terms and fines came into force Aug. 1.

Hundreds more are in detention centers waiting to leave.

Months before the deadline, Malaysia gave an estimated 600,000 undocumented foreign workers in the country an amnesty and an ultimatum: Get out or face arrest and strict punishment.

The early warnings failed to prevent a last-minute exodus. Tens of thousands of people swarmed ports and other exit points jamming deportation centers in Malaysia and worsening conditions at sites abroad where returnees gathered.

The government has relented somewhat after employers warned that building projects were grinding to a halt because of a shortage of the Indonesian workers who traditionally dominated the industry.

In recent weeks, tens of thousands of work permits have been granted to Indonesian migrants.

Jose Brillantes, Philippine ambassador to Malaysia, said Malaysian businessmen were coordinating with the Philippine government to arrange the papers of their former employees.

"They want the Filipinos back since their requirements have all been satisfied. It is a fact that the Malaysians need our workers and our countrymen need the employment opportunities there," Brillantes told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"The Malaysians have been coordinating with the representatives of the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to help meet their requirements. It seems they badly need to get these workers back," the ambassador said. ***With reports from AP and Norman Bordadora***

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Climaco: Naia 3 won't open on Nov. 26

From page A1

security agencies.

"The Germans said that realistically this airport will run in the first quarter and that's what we are running after because next year is Visit RP Year," she added.

Congress reaction

In the House, the same congressmen who criticized the government's proposed buyout of the German stake said it should be the courts, not Malacañang, who should decide if certain provisions in Piatco's concession agreement were onerous.

Representatives Prospero Pichay, Jacinto Paras, Willie Villarama and Prospero Nograles were reacting to President Macapagal-Arroyo's comment the other day that the Piatco contract featured at least seven onerous provisions. But they heaped the blame on Climaco for giving the President the wrong advice.

Pichay invoked the sanctity of contracts guaranteed by the Constitution in opposing the President's position. He said the Constitution even prohibited legislation that could impinge on existing contracts.

"If a contract is onerous, it is not for anyone in the Executive or Legislative branch to say so. Bring it to the courts and let the courts decide," Pichay said.

"If a contract is onerous, we have a Supreme Court to settle that. If you are going to kick out somebody from a binding contract, only the court can do that," Paras said.

Villarama said, "any lawyer will always find defects in contracts made by other lawyers." He said succeeding administrations must honor contracts entered into by the previous governments.

"That does not mean it cannot be reviewed but this must be determined by the proper forum," Villarama said. "This emerging pattern of business harassment will result (in) a weak, rather than a strong, republic," he added.

Villarama said that having worked with Ms Macapagal, the President's moral values would not permit irregularity.

"But I cannot say this of some influential people around her. They play dangerous games which can be interpreted as extortion or blackmail," Villarama said.

Nograles, who has a pending resolution to investigate Climaco, advised the President to listen instead to Secretaries Jose Isidro Camacho of finance, Mar Roxas of trade and Leandro Mendoza of transportation.

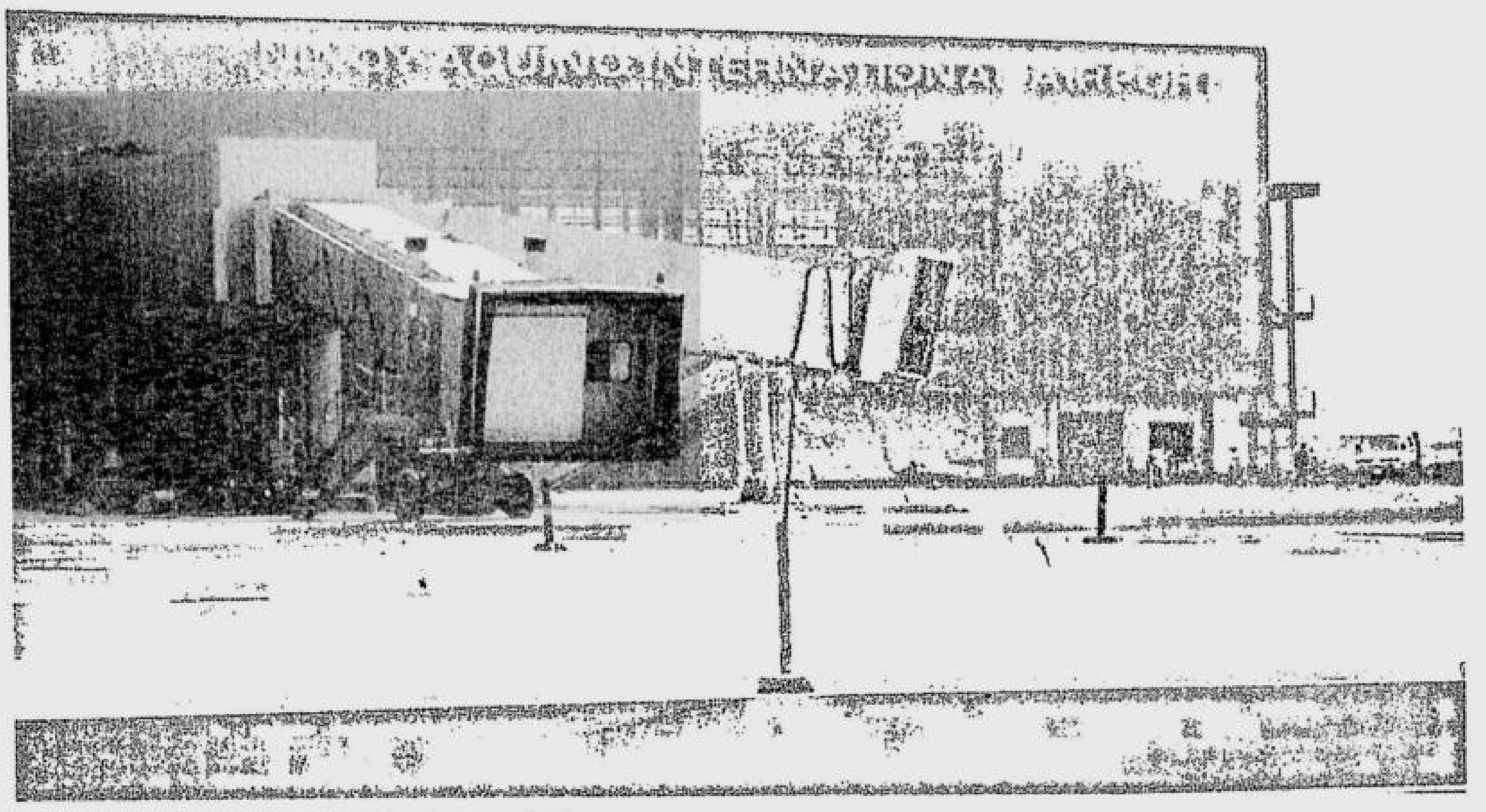
$20 million

At the Palace briefing, Climaco noted that Fraport had offered to buy out the Cheng group for $20 million—more than the $18 million the Filipino partners had shelled out for the project.

Climaco said the BOT project turned sour because Piatco had refused to justify why the cost rose from an original $350 million to $657 million.

"We have been going back to Piatco, asking them to give us a breakdown . . . to understand what it is so we will be able to justify to the Filipino people what is the rate to be charged there," she said.

The Macapagal administration has branded as onerous the $20-per-passenger terminal fee that Piatco wants to charge for the use of the facility.


YELLOW is the dominant color of Naia 3 terminal.

"(The) $20-per-passenger (fee), my dear friends, is more than what Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Singapore are charging," Climaco said. "Here they are asking for $20 because that is the only way they can earn a return on a project cost of $657 million."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the Macapagal administration remained committed to its policy of privatization despite its impending takeover of the Terminal 3 project.

"The term 'takeover' is actually a misnomer," Bunye said in a statement. "It is a term used by people with vested interests who want to confuse the public."

Bunye said that what "the government merely wants (is) to study the proposal of the German partner in Piatco, who wants to get out of what it perceives to be an anomalous situation."

"It is for this purpose that the special team headed by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was formed" by the President, Bunye also said.

"We cannot in conscience pass on to the Filipino people the loathsome burdens of an onerous contract especially if we still have the opportunity to do something about it," he added.

He said the contract was amended during the abbreviated 1998-2001 presidency of Joseph Estrada, now detained and on trial for unrelated corruption charges.

"At least seven provisions which were inserted during the Estrada administration really stink. One of them has to do with the payment of excessive terminal fees," he said.

In an interview with dzMM radio earlier yesterday, Bunye said: "I must stress that the government will continue to pursue privatization. It's very far from the mind of the government to do what is known as a reverse privatization or a takeover."

He said the President had stressed that "we will honor all agreements with investors, both domestic and foreign. But the government reserves the right to review contracts that contain provisions that are onerous or disadvantageous to the people of the Philippines."

Fraport shares, under pressure in the last several months because of worries about the project, jumped in Frankfurt on Friday after news of the proposed buyout broke. ***With reports from Reuters and AFP***

State has right to rectify grossly disadvantageous contracts

From page A1

maintain the terminal complex during the concession period—i.e., all aircraft repair and maintenance, cargo handling and catering.

4) Several public utility fees will no longer be regulated, contrary to law.

5) The government will be restricted from developing other adjacent properties, including those of the Bases Conversation and Development Authority.

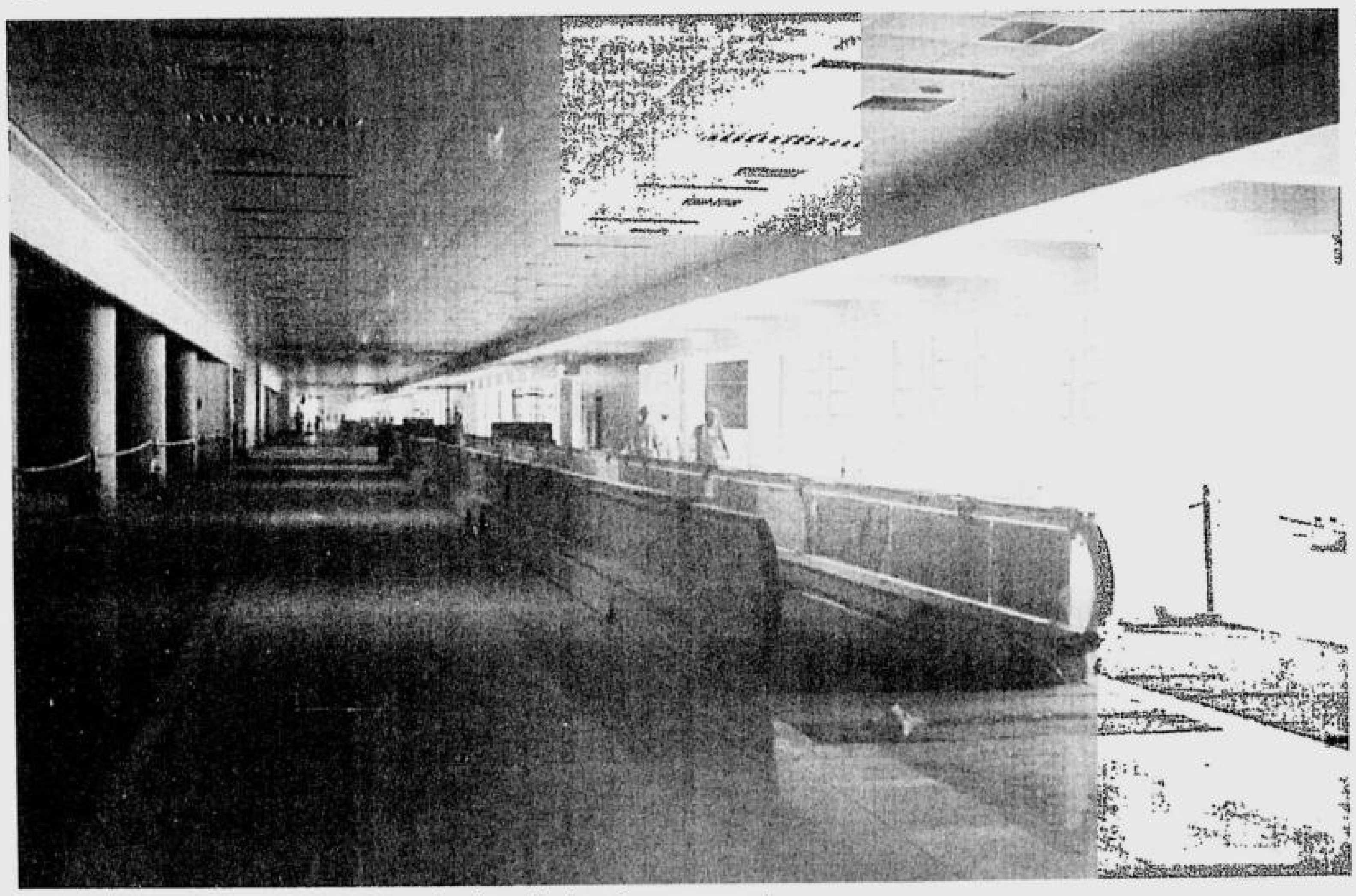
6) The government is made responsible for the payment of debt directly incurred by Piatco in case of loan default. This is effectively a direct guarantee by the government, which is a violation of the BOT (build-operate-transfer) law.

7) The government pays considerably larger amount of liquidated damages to Piatco than those to be paid by Piatco to the government in the event of a default.

Right to intervene

By defending the results of the review, the President has put herself on the line and is sending the message that the Philippine State has the right to intervene to rectify contracts disadvantageous to the public interest, if not to annul them, in order to protect the interest of the people.

Rep. Prospero Pichay attacks this form of state intervention by putting forward two foolish arguments. Pichay, who has a reputation of firing from the hips at every rustle of the bush, said the President's decision insulted the dignity of 220 members of the House of Representatives after the agreements were found valid by two House committees.


'GOVERNMENT takeover of Naia 3 is no insult to dignity of congressmen.'

First of all, it is too much to claim that all members of the House have dignity. Secondly, it is a fact that many of the House committee reports on hearings conducted in "aid of legislation" are not the best models of probity and are not beyond review. Thirdly, the Chief Executive is not bound by House committee reports under the principle of separation of powers, a notion that escapes Pichay's attention.

Pichay says it's the courts which determine whether contracts are onerous or injurious to public interests. Correct, except that court rulings are issued after a case has been filed. It is the primary responsibility of the government to review contracts it perceives to be disadvantageous to public interest before harm is done. Pichay's argument is absolute nonsense.

Other congressmen have jumped into the fray, attacking the review and the solutions flowing from it. The President better avail herself of the political intelligence available to her office to unmask groups conducting a campaign in the media in an attempt to discredit her decision.

Names

I am reliably told that some of them are closely associated with her, and she might be surprised to find names if she investigates further.

The President has disclosed a proposal by Fraport, which operates the Frankfurt International Airport, for an amicable settlement. Fraport, partner of the Cheng family in Piatco, has provided 80 percent of the funds for the construction of the new terminal. It has proposed a government buyout of its $400-million interest in the project which, according to Piatco, costs $657 million.

The terms of agreement between the government and Fraport are now being hammered out, but this is not the focus of this article.

There has been a falling out between Fraport and the Cheng family over questions of transparency. Fraport has not been given an accounting by Piatco of its investments. One item in question is the $23-million disbursement during the Estrada administration that coincided with several significant changes in the agreements.

Whether the terminal will be ready to open before the end of the year is in doubt.

It is odd that in the wake of Climaco's testimony at the Senate blue ribbon committee last week, lawyers of Piatco did not address the onerous provisions of the thoroughly amended agreement that enhanced gains for Piatco.

The lawyers insinuated that the government was not only taking over the terminal from Piatco but was in effect laying the ground for its handover to other parties interested in the terminal.

They shifted the debate from the issues to Climaco and raised speculations absolutely not founded on facts or evidence.

One would expect lawyers to argue and build their case on evidence—not on speculation or hypothesis. Lawyers who go to court arguing their case in this manner are likely to lose their case.

Climaco is not the issue. Let's go back to the core of this controversy—the onerous provisions of the agreements, so we can have a clearer idea of whether the government is right in intervening to correct the controversial provisions and in acting on behalf of national interests.

Doronila . . .

From page A1

have to recapture the people who made things happen and how they reacted to each other," the 74-year-old author said.

"Edsa II is one of the overcovered events in our history. Everyone knew about it. People knew what was happening every minute of the day, from the impeachment to Estrada's downfall," Doronila said.

"I didn't want to write about things people already knew. So I went behind the scenes and showed the other actors in the events," he added.

Established in 1981, the Gintong Aklat Awards is managed by the Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP) and the National Book Development Board. It is given out biannually to outstanding book publishers based on the overall quality of books they produce.

Contest entries are divided into five categories: literature, religion, social science, the arts and children's books. They are judged based on content, layout and design, writing and editing.

BDAP president Lirio Sandoval said the association received around 200 entries for this year's awards, but only 65 passed the initial screening. Of this, less than 10 percent won the Gintong Aklat, he added.

Naia 3 solves problem of well-wishers

From page A1

For air travelers wanting to leave their cars at the airport, there is a four-level car park that can accommodate up to 2,000 cars where long-term secure parking can be arranged. An open-air parking lot can also hold up to 1,200 vehicles.

"Although the Naia 3 is smaller than most airports around the world, most of our equipment are better because these are the latest, state-of-the-art equipment. We had to meet certain standards to be able to more efficiently handle both passengers and their baggage," Tolentino said.

Passengers' luggage will go through four levels of screening at the terminal. The terminal is also equipped with what Piatco calls the "baggage reconciliation system" that treats each passenger and his luggage as one unit.

Aside from making bags easier to find, Tolentino said, this system also eliminates the risk of somebody leaving behind a dangerous package or bag at the terminal.

Real innovation

According to Piatco officials, however, the real innovation in the four-story international passenger terminal—designed by renowned American architectural firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill—lies in its design, in how Philippine culture has been integrated into its color scheme, layout and general "look and feel."

The color scheme, for example, is adopted from the colors of the flag: red, white, blue and yellow. Although walls and floors are predominantly gray, the colors of the flag are always there to break the monotony, officials explained.

Yellow is the dominant color, mainly because it is associated with the exile and homecoming of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., the slain leader after whom the airport is named.

Tolentino pointed with pride to the terminal's solution of a characteristically Filipino problem: the meet-and-greet tradition. Unlike other terminals in the country, Naia 3 incorporates this tradition—where dozens of family members and friends see off a traveler or welcome a visitor—into its design.

For a nominal fee, the "greeters" even have a chance to see their loved ones immediately after they go through the immigration counters.

Well-wishers sending off their loved ones have another area reserved for them. While waiting for their flight, travelers can spend time with their well-wishers inside the terminal's more than 100 food outlets and retail stores or inside the duty-free shopping mall.

Naia 3 has around 35,000 square meters of space for duty-free shopping, Tolentino said.

The good old days

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

GOING through my files over the weekend, I came across a request asking, "how about an article on the late Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson and basketball immortal Carlos Loyzaga whose past achievements are always a source of national pride and inspiration? Here, although briefly, is the answer to their question.

Fearless Arsenio H. Lacson–or "Arsenic" as he was known to his peers and friends was not only an outstanding public servant who exposed graft and corruption in the government, but also an outstanding athlete and sportswriter in the years when the Philippines was at her celestial glory.

He launched his athletic career as a member of the Ateneo football midget team in 1926, moving up to become its varsity player in 1929 wearing the blue and white jersey as center half back. In 1930, Lacson was named team captain of Ateneo's undefeated eleven while in 1931, and still at Ateneo, he played for the renowned Turba Salvaje soccer team. At the University of Santo Tomas where he was a law graduate Lacson continued his flourishing football. career as captain of the UST eleven in 1933. The following year, he played as center half back of the powerhouse Philippine team in the 10th Far Eastern Games hosted by Manila together with some of the biggest names in Philippine football such as Sebastian Ugarte, Jose Hernandez, Ramon Alegre, Antonio Villanueva and Joaquin Ortigas. Although he excelled in football, Lacson also took part in baseball and track and field team. In 1938-1941, he coached the junior and varsity football teams of Ateneo, where he was later enshrined in its Hall of Fame. Sports was in his blood, you see.

After graduating from UST, he joined the law office of Gen. Vicente Francisco.

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Mel Tiangco with some beneficiaries of Bisig Bayan.

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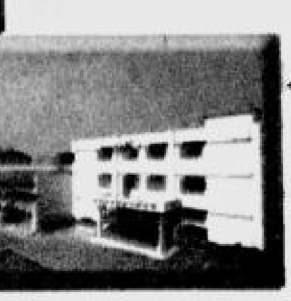
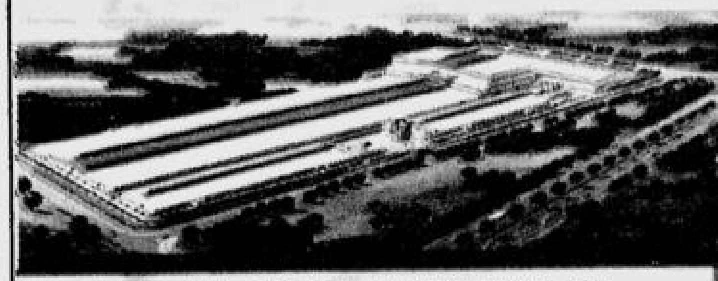
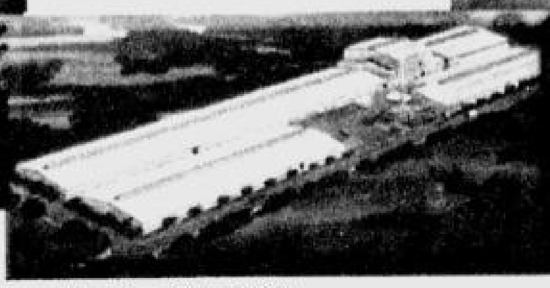
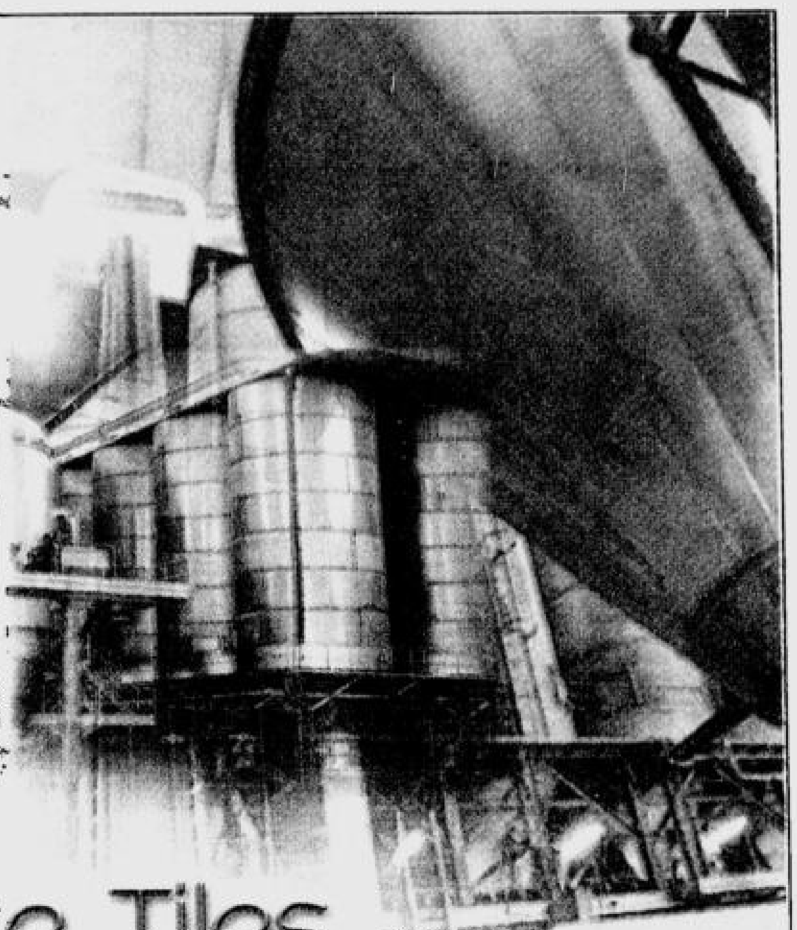
White Horse (Malaysia) Administrative Building

White Horse (Malaysia) Plant 1 & 2 located at Pasir Gudang, Johor


White Horse (Taiwan) Factory


White Horse (Malaysia) Plant 3 located at Tanjung Langsat, Johor


White Horse (Vietnam) Plant



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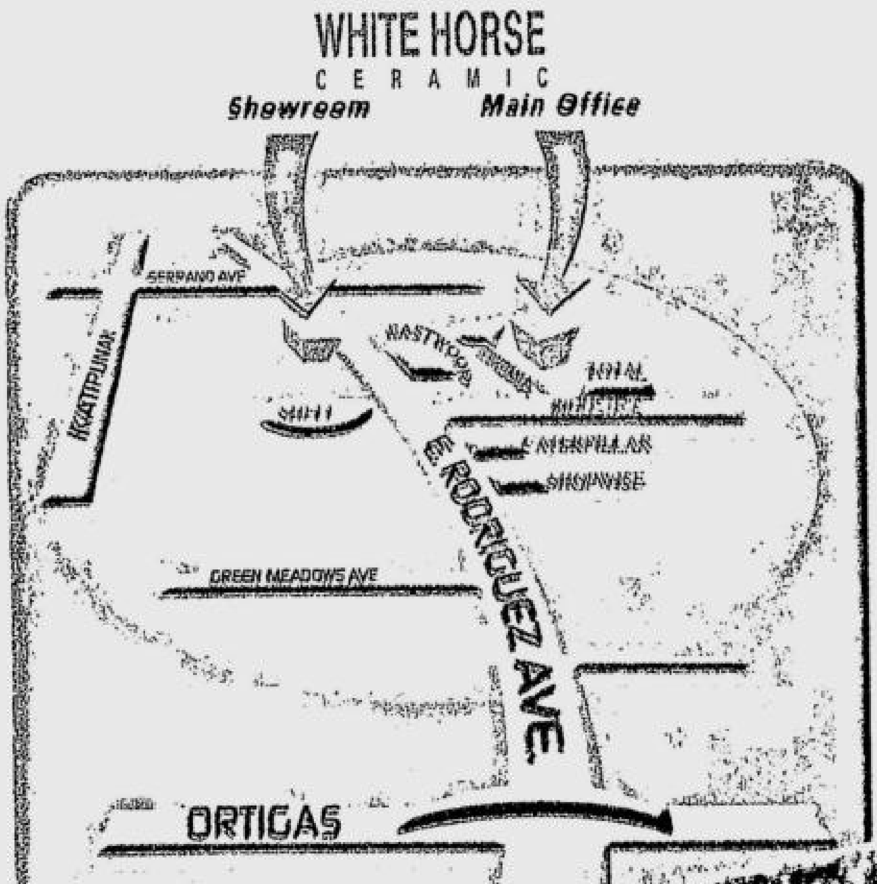

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A plant area that fits 76 football fields

The June 2001 opening of White Horse's third plant in Tanjung Langsat Industrial Estate in Johor, West Malaysia heralded a new chapter of growth and breakthrough for this wholly owned subsidiary of White Horse Berhad, listed in the Main Board of the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange in 1999. The 30,000 square meter plant was built to concentrate on the production of the high-end Multi-Effect Granite Tiles. The total area of this new plant, combined with two other plants in Pasir Gudang is as big as 76 football fields, doubling White Horse's plant area within only 9 years.

Since its establishment in 1992, White Horse has achieved a steady growth with a double turnover in just 6 years. In calendar year 2001, the company achieved a combined turnover of MYR269 million (PHP3,631.5 million), and is expected to increase by another 10% to 15% in 2002.

Leading the trend with advanced technology

With the current fast pace in innovation and change of trends in tile designs, White Horse Tiles relies on more than just quality to be a leader in the market. To keep up with the latest changes , White Horse stresses heavily on Research and Development (R&D) to remain competitive with the world's market leaders.

Highly skilled R&D researchers collaborate with the production department and both local and overseas partners and suppliers on testing of new materials, formulae and the latest manufacturing techniques to achieve breakthroughs as well as to set future trends for the tile industry.

Excellent quality control

At White Horse, every piece is produced with precision and strict quality control. There is simply no compromise when it comes to quality. To ensure that the high demand of tiles meet the guaranteed quality level, White Horse has implemented an effective computer system that accurately controls the production process along with advanced manufacturing machines.

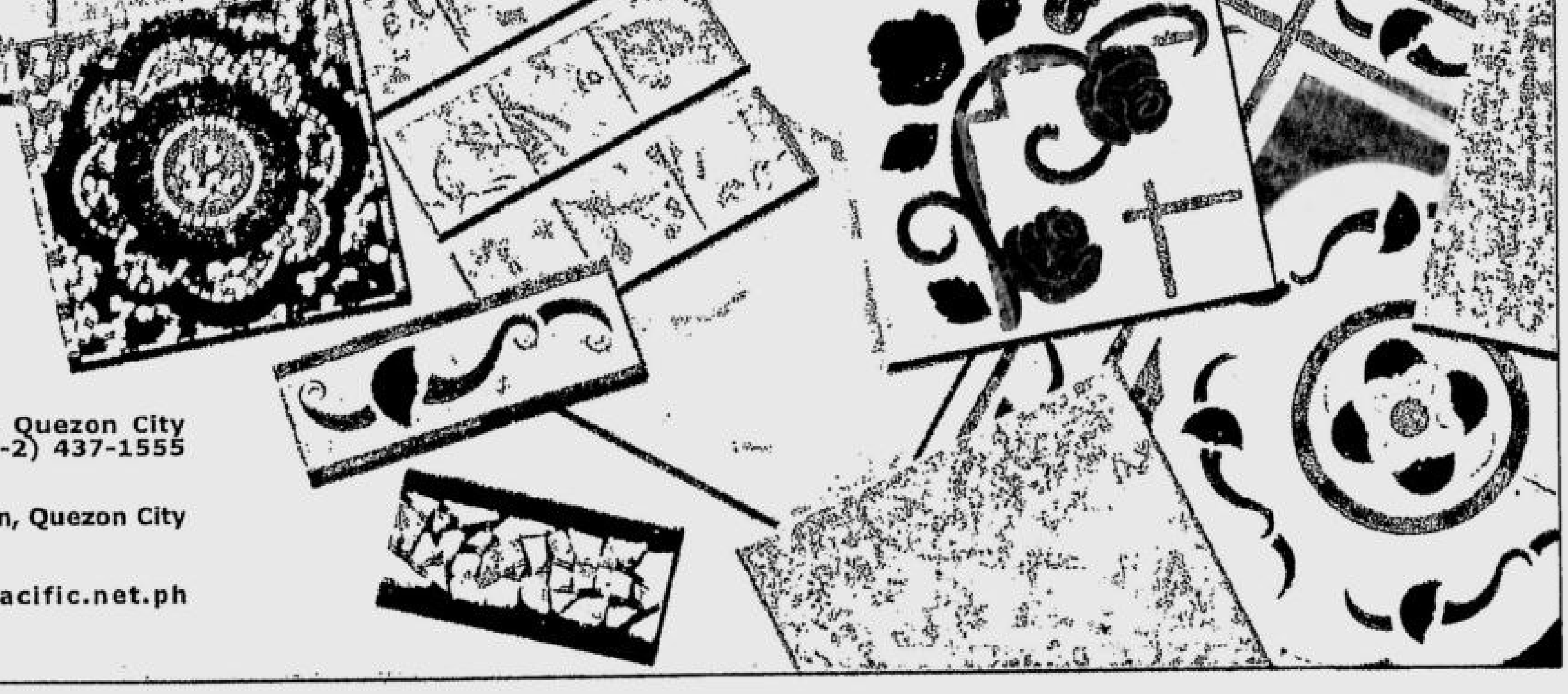
White Horse Tiles bear the hallmark of advanced technology, stringent quality assurance and the utmost dedication to design excellence. White Horse's diligent efforts in maintaining product and management quality has earned them an ISO 9001 accreditation, the first of its kind awarded to an Asian tile manufacturer.

The history of White Horse

White Horse was first set up in Taiwan over 50 years ago. In the early '90s, three leading companies from Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore pooled their strengths to achieve greater synergy in the region's tile manufacturing industry by establishing a production plant in Malaysia. With a strategic marketing concept in place, White Horse has established a string of distribution network in just a few short years.

Located in Pasir Gudang, Johor, West Malaysia, the corporate headquarters house 2 manufacturing plants, 2 warehouses, an administration office, the R&D department and the showroom. The other 11 Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand and Australia branches each have a warehouse, administration and sales office showroom.

In the next issue, know more about White Horse Homogenous tiles.



US Open: Hewitt nips Blake anew

HEWITT celebrates victory over Blake. AP

NEW YORK—James Blake did what he could to wash away the ill will directed at Lleyton Hewitt by some spectators during a riveting US Open rematch.

Blake had a tougher time withstanding the defending champion's relentless play.

His sneakers squeaking with each step, his darting eyes finding the right angles, Hewitt got past Blake, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, Saturday to reach the fourth round. It came a year to the day after another five-setter between the pair, one marked by a call-arguing tirade by Hewitt that was perceived as racist.

Saturday's "was a great match for the sport. We fought our hearts out. He came up with great shots, I came up with great shots. He came up with a few more," Blake said after playing in the third round of a major for the first time. "The way we conducted ourselves—I really like the fact that if any kid was watching, they could say, 'I want to be like either one of those two.'"

A tight match came down to Blake's three-point lapse in the sixth game of the last set. Blake made three straight errors (he had 86 total to Hewitt's 40), Hewitt snapped a forehand winner, and just like that, the No. 1-seeded Australian had a 4-2 lead.

Hewitt, who said he didn't notice what the fans were saying, next plays No. 14 Jiri Novak. He advanced when Marcelo Rios quit after losing the first two sets, citing a right knee injury and raising the number of retirements to a Grand Slam-record nine men. Also into the fourth round is two-time champion Andre Agassi, who beat Ramon Delgado, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2, and has dropped 16 games so far. Agassi now faces Jan-Michael Gambill, who eliminated No. 21 Gaston Gaudio, 6-0, 6-2, 6-0.

Two-time defending champion Venus Williams beat Martina Muller, 6-1, 6-2, to set up a fourth-round match against No. 14 Chanda Rubin, while Monica Seles, Kim Clijsters and Amelie Mauresmo also won.

Seles lost seven straight games after leading 5-1 in the second set but got by qualifier Yoon-Jeong Cho, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, and now plays Martina Hingis, another past Open champion. Hingis, who missed the French Open and Wimbledon because of ankle surgery, beat Amanda Coetzer, 6-3, 6-4, at night.

Jennifer Capriati also advanced by whipping Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-2, 6-2.

Earlier Saturday, a German man who's been pursuing Williams' sister Serena around the world was arrested and charged with stalking. Albrecht Stromeyer, 34, was taken into custody after a police officer spotted him watching Serena through a fence at the National Tennis Center, police spokesperson Detective Louis Camacho said.

Against Blake in the 2001 Open's second round, Hewitt complained after being called for two foot faults by a linesman. The Australian said to the chair umpire: "Look at him. Look at him and you tell me what the similarity is. Just get him off the court."

Some thought Hewitt was noting both the linesmen and Blake are black. Hewitt later said he was pointing out the "similarity" in the fault calls.

With Blake down 3-2 in the fifth set and serving, he sent a forehand wide, a backhand wide and a forehand long to give Hewitt three break points. It was part of an 11-point streak for Hewitt that tilted the match his way.

"Sometimes it looks like you're missing easy balls, but that's because of the work he does," said Blake, who attended Harvard before turning pro. *AP*

Dickies bet posts sweep

SUBIC—Monching Gutierrez, Don Pastor and Patrick Mendiola scored another decisive victories to pull away in the overall standings in their respective categories in the SVI Challenge Cup even as John Camus and Pocholo Ramirez split top honors in the Miata Cup at the Subic International Raceway.

Gutierez, a mainstay of the highly-rated Dickies-MP Turbo Racing Team, firmed up his bid for his second straight overall title by sweeping the ninth and 10th rounds over Dominique Bon and Mikko David.

The well-known movie/TV personality, who took up racing seriously upon the proddings of veteran internationalist Mike Potenciano, negotiated the 3-km seaside race course with the fastest times in both rounds to complete his third sweep of the season.

"I think my chances (of winning the title) are a lot better now, but there are still four races left so there's no celebration yet," said Gutierrez, who is also being supported by Gulf Oil, BLTB, CPM Muffler and Rainforest Mineral Water.

Gutierrez clocked 35:15.650 against Bon's 35:16.432 in the ninth round and 31:01.756 against David's 31:02.306 in the 10th round.

Italian karting squad sparkles

MICHAEL Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello posted another classic 1-2 finish in the recent Hungarian Grand Prix and clinched the 2002 Constructor's title for Scuderia Ferrari.

Meanwhile, another Italian team is riding the wave of an equally prolific racing season. After two hotly contested rounds, the Birel S.p.A. and the Birel Motorsport Kart teams are in first and second places respectively in the Constructor's league of the CIK-FIA World Karting Championships.

Like Schumacher and Barrichello, Birel ace drivers Ronnie Quintarelli and Gianlucca Beggio are likewise chalking up the big points in the Formula Super A scoreboard. Birels are also the chassis of choice of top Italian ICA drivers Michele Fanneti and Filippo Tedeschini in the European Karting Championships.

On the Asian front, the top Filipino drivers in three of the five categories contested in the opening rounds of the CIK-FIA Asian Zone Karting Championships held recently in the Philippines drove Birel karts.

Sta. Lucia Golf Tour now slated in 5 venues

SANTOS

WITH the addition of a special leg in another host venue patterned after the par-3 shootout of the Masters, the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour will be unveiled next month in a third season that is seen to draw a record number of entries due to a more compact schedule.

By popular demand, organizers have decided to bring the Inter-club tournament conducted by the Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp. together with its joint venture partners to the short Royale Tagaytay course. It is part of a co-hosting scheme in the final leg which will bring the number of host clubs to five covering Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"As promised, we are adding another leg in our desire to expose the participants to as many clubs as possible and make their stint in the Tour fun-filled," said Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, co-chairmen of the Sta. Lucia Tour.

The 2003 Tour starts October 3-5 at the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Davao, moves to the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Cebu on November 7-9 before winding up with the final leg where Royale Tagaytay, the Orchard Golf and Country Club and the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club will be involved in a unique triple-venue treat.

Santos and Gob bared that this early, the new format has become more acceptable to competing teams since it means less travel but more venues.

The main prize at stake is the Sta. Lucia Cup, a title which goes to the club with the best cumulative score at the end of the three-month series. It is a race where not just the low handicappers will have to contribute but those in the Class C and D divisions as well.

There will be prize packages per leg where teams formed from the various delegations will be vying for individual and team honors. A club must field a minimum of five, four-man teams to qualify for the Sta. Lucia Cup.

Tournament director Andy Dumlao bared that starting this year, the Molave point system will be used for the scoring in the interest of faster play. Handicaps will be used for classification purposes only and individual titles in each division will be disputed in gross basis.

Participation in the series is partly subsidized by Sta. Lucia. The entry fee of P15,000 is already inclusive of two airline tickets, four-day, three-night stays in top hotels with breakfast, giveaways, airport transfers and shuttle bus service to all the playing venues and green fees.

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NEW PHILRACOM BOARD

Racing sectors welcome GMA appointment

THE VARIOUS sectors of the local horseracing industry yesterday welcomed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of the new Philracom board, giving the leadership of new chairman Jaime Dilag a major boost.

Dilag, 51, was appointed last week by President Arroyo to head the racing body for a period of four years. He replaced Andrew Sanchez.

"I would like to thank the President for giving us her confidence and the different sectors for expressing their support to the new Philracom board. With their help, there's no way but up for the local horseracing industry," said Dilag, a sportsman-businessman who also served as two-time Philracom commissioner prior to his appointment.

DILAG

Among those who met Dilag and assured him of their support were majority of the horseowners and breeders, the New Philippine Jockeys Association (NPJA), Philippine Horse Trainers Association (PHTA) and the grooms' association.

Officials of the country's two racing clubs–the Manila Jockey Club and Philippine Racing Club–have also conveyed their support to Dilag.

Aside from Dilag, President Arroyo also appointed former champion jockey Eduardo Domingo Jr. and airline executive Eduardo Jose as new commissioners. Lawyer-businessman Vergel Cruz, businessman Felizardo Sevilla Jr. and marketing executive Roger Tandiama were reappointed commissioners. Top executive Francis Trillana is the other commissioner.

Assisting the commissioners are executive director Narmo P. Noblejas and deputy executive director Romeo Buencamino.

Dilag presided over the new Philracom board's first meeting last Friday and proposed some of his immediate projects for the industry.

"I presented to the board members some of my plans and I'm very happy because they said they'll give me their 100 percent backing," said Dilag, who also vowed to carry on the projects initiated by Sanchez.

Foremost on Dilag's agenda is the revival of the racing public's interest in the sweepstakes races through the help of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

"We'll try to look for other source of funds so that the sweepstakes races starting this November will have P500,000, P200,000 and P100,000 for the first three placers," added Dilag.

Edwin Villanueva

TEST DIVE
Former swimming star Akiko Thomson is shown in action during a test dive using the TAG Heuer 2000 Series at the Layang Layang atoll off the coast of Sabah, Malaysia, recently. Thomson (inset) was one of the Asian sports personalities invited by Swiss watchmaker TAG Heuer to test dive its popular chronographs and sports watches.

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SPORTSWATCH

'Ratratan' derby set

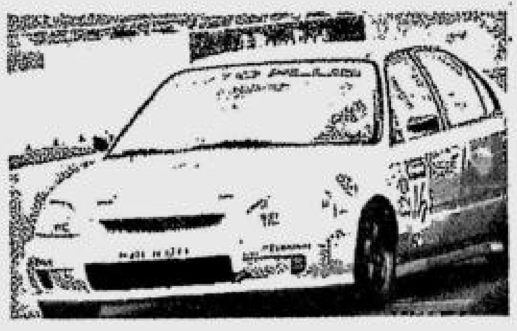
MANDALUYONG Coliseum presents the "Ratratan 7-Stag Derby" tomorrow and on Thursday (Sept. 3 and 5). Derby hosts are longtime partners Ramon Mansenares and Muroy Dolorico while sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakepue Drug Inc. Submission of weights is today, Monday, Sept. 1, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341. Mansenares said that more than 50 participants are seeing action tomorrow, mostly from the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and National Cockers Association (Naca), plus entries from Negros Occidental, Davao and Cebu. Mandaluyong Coliseum's opening stag derby for 2002, the "Richard L. Bates 7-Stag Derby" turned out to be a big success (61 entries listed).

Roligon Mega back

AFTER suffering several setbacks in the first quarter of the year, the Roligon Mega Cockpit is finally back on the cockfighting limelight as it presents the "10th RAY Showdown 7-Stag National Derby" with more than 80 fights featured at 4 p.m. today. Derby hosts Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu have put a whopping guaranteed prize of P1 million to the champions. The handler and gaffer will get P15,000. Assisting the hosts are veteran llmadores Renato Shio and Abo Centeno. On tap today is the 3-stag qualifying,round, while the championship round is on Wednesday, Sept. 4. For other details, please contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Couple strikes again

GENERAL Santos City—As big-time triathlon made its debut here yesterday, married couple Johnny Yanong and May Ferrer-Yanong of Davao City struck gold again in the fourth and final leg of the Enervon National Age-Group Triathlon (NAGT) Mindanao Circuit. Johnny Yanong registered the event's best time of 1 hour, 9 minutes and 4 seconds to claim the 20-24 title. Behind him is brother Edgar who clocked 1:10:40 for the 25-29 title and finishing third was PAF's Joel Custodio in 1:14:18. In the distaff side, Yanong's wife May Ferrer clocked 1:22:40 followed by RP Team's Ana Carla Pangilinan in 1:31:11 (female 19-below). Magdalena Yanong followed Pangilinan 47 seconds later to claim the 25-29 female title. The event was sponsored by Speedo, Enervon, City Government of General Santos, Philippine Sports Commission and the POC for All Commission.



GP LEADER
Caltex Havoline-Autoplus driver Jody Coseteng, shown in action above, holds the solo lead in both the Philippine National Touring Car Championship and SVI Super Saloon Series of the SVI Subic Grand Prix being held at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Belgian Grand Prix at 1:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Air Canada Championship Final Round at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Preview Show at 11 a.m. on ESPN
SOCCER: Western Union World Football at 12 noon on ESPN
English Premier Football League at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports and 6 p.m. on ESPN
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Archers make it 11-0

GAMES THURSDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP
3:30 p.m.—Adamson vs UE

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNDER siege most of the way, defending champion La Salle responded with its trademark whirlwind finishing kick to beat University of the East, 92-85, last night in the UAAP basketball tournament.

Proud, focused and merciless, the Green Archers shut down the Red Warriors in the final three minutes of play, while erupting with big baskets to stretch their unblemished record to 11 games.

UE kept second place with an 8-3 record, its 8-game winning streak ruined by La Salle's elegant plays.

As the sweaty Rizal Memorial Coliseum crowd watched breathless, Olan Omiping buried a jumper which gave UE a slim 79-78, 3:02 but the Red Warriors were caught flatfooted when the Archers made one, last furious charge.

"Things became different when we started to calm down and put the heat on the Warriors. We gave the easy shots at the start and I'm glad that our defensive rotation worked wonders at the end," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren. La Salle is now three wins short of tying the 14-0 record set in 1993 by University of Santo Tomas.

The awesome playmaking of Mike Cortez provided an ideal backdrop for Carlos Sharma, whose monstrous game broke the hearts of the Warriors and their followers.

With UE pointguard Paul Artadi unable to keep his nerves, Cortez and Sharma joined hands for an 85-79 La Salle lead and not even a rare four-point play by Ronald Tubid could save UE as BJ Manalo, Mark Cardona and Willy Wilson sank their gift shots.

The 6-foot-6 Sharma and Joseph Yeo were responsible for preventing a UE breakaway in the early going. Routing Nino Canaleta and Jhayson Alminario in the middle, Sharma erupted with 24 points on top of 16 rebounds, a performance which drew a standing ovation from the fans.

"Sharma's explosive game lifted us. But I think that La Salle's proven championship poise and character enabled us to beat a worthy rival," said team manager Terry Capistrano, who had just arrived from a business trip in Germany.

UE's fragility in pressure-packed situations got exposed in the homestretch as they committed several errors.

Arnold Booker, whose acrobatic talents were negated by his lack of concentration, received an unsportsmanlike and a technical foul, giving La Salle a breather. Then, Tubid, numb with disbelief, made a fool of himself by spitting on the face of Cardona and then hitting him in the stomach as the buzzer ended.

In the first game, Far Eastern University whipped National University, 95-68, for a 5-6 record.

Scores:

First game:

FEU 95—Sinco 25, Jones 19, Catli 12, Santos 11, Isip 9, Garcia 6, Rizada 5, Yabut 4, Miranda 2, Gadiana 2, Cutler 0, Razon 0.

NU 68—Urbano 12, Mendoza 11, Grijaldo 10, Baguion 9, Tolentino 7, Cajayon 7, Napa 6, Arellaga 4, Santico 2, Balijon 0, Miclat 0.

Quarters: 25-22, 53-43, 72-59, 95-68.

Second game:

LA SALLE 92—Sharma 24, Cortez 16, Yeo 14, Cardona 14, Wilson 9, Manalo 7, Vainio 3, Sta. Maria 3, Gavino 2, Tang 0.

UE 85—Yap 29, Tubid 14, Booker 11, Omiping 10, Alminario 6, Estrada 6, Canaleta 3, Artadi 4, Masbang 2, Butel 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 22-22, 44-43, 64-67, 92-85.

LA SALLE playmaker Mike Cortez (right) dribbles past Ronald Tubid of UE as Carlos Sharma tries to keep pace during their UAAP game yesterday. The Archers zoomed to their 11th straight win, 92-85. VAL HANDUMON

US cagers rally to down Chinese in world meet

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—The United States came back from an early 12-point deficit to defeat China, 84-65, on Saturday and complete the first round with an unbeaten record at the 2002 FIBA World Basketball Championships.

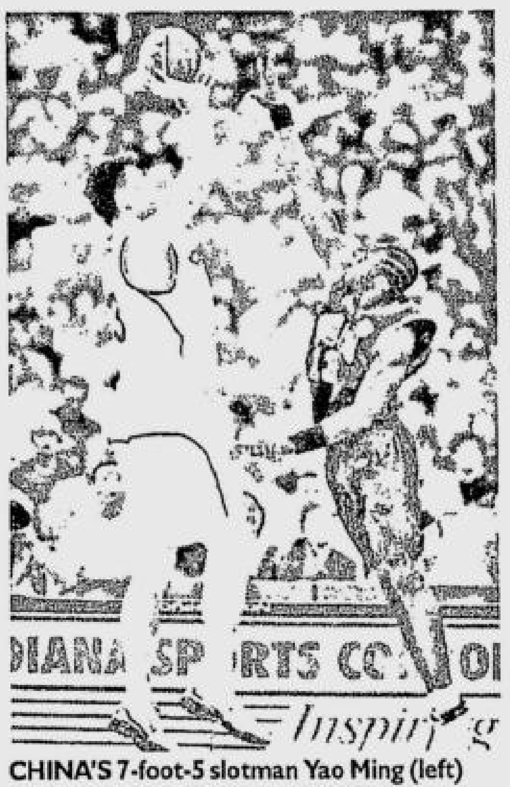
China controlled the game for most of the first half against the Americans, who are loaded with NBA players. But the home team were finally able to pull away in the second half when center Yao Ming landed in foul trouble.

The U.S. (3-0) now meet Russia in the second round at Conseco Fieldhouse on Monday. China (1-2) will play Argentina the same day.

Paul Pierce led the U.S. with 19 points, Shawn Marion added 15 points and Michael Finley contributed 14.

Yao was benched several times through foul trouble, so it was Mengke Bateer who led the way with 19 points for the Chinese.

Teams from around the world have been encroaching over the past few years on the American dominance in the sport, and Saturday night's game was yet another example of how foreign teams have closed the gap.


DIANA SP RTS CC OI
Inspiri g

CHINA'S 7-foot-5 slotman Yao Ming (left) shoots over Ben Wallace of the United States. REUTERS

The U.S. team took the lead for good with about four minutes left in the third quarter but didn't close out the Chinese until Jermanine O'Neal scored inside with 6:30 left for a 69-58 lead.

Hu Weidong and Zhu Fangu both had 14 points while Ming could manage just 10 points and six rebounds in 26 minutes.

The tournament now takes a day off before second round play starts on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

In other games on the final day of preliminary round action, Germany easily dispatched Algeria 102-71.

The win improved Germany to 2-1 in Group C play, allowing them to progress to the second round. Algeria are 0-3 and go through to the consolation round.

German forward Dirk Nowitzki of the Dallas Mavericks scored 11 points in the first quarter and finished with 24 points in the game.

Argentina (3-0) beat New Zealand 112-85 thanks to a strong fourth quarter in which the Kiwis were outscored 38-13. *Reuters, AP*

Oakland tallies 17th consecutive victory

OAKLAND, California—The Oakland Athletics extended the majors' longest winning streak in 49 years to 17 games Saturday night, beating the Minnesota Twins, 6-3, behind four RBIs from Eric Chavez.

Chavez hit a tiebreaking two-run single off J.C. Romero (8-2) in the eighth inning for the A's, who have the longest winning streak since the 1953 New York Yankees won 18 in a row. The 17 consecutive wins matched a franchise record set in 1931.

Oakland's bullpen wasted another excellent start by Cory Lidle. *AP*

Phone Pals, Thunder collide for PBA title

GAMES FRIDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
7:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

TALK N Text stopped Alaska from carving out a historic reversal by posting an 89-73 victory last night to advance to the Finals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Leaving no room for the Aces to operate, the Phone Pals drew much of their strength from Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal as they arranged a best-of-seven titular showdown against Batang Red Bull.

The local force of the Phone Pals also did an equal share of the job with Mark Telan and Kenny Evans springing surprises that swept the Aces off their feet.

Evans drilled four triples for 12 points while Telan made life miserable for the entire Aces' frontline as the 6-foot-6 pivotman relentlessly battled Ajani Williams and Ali Peek in the paint.

"If you're gonna win in this league, it's gonna be the locals and not the imports," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno, whose Phone Pals entered the Finals for only the second time since joining the league in 1996.

The Phone Pals figured in a championship showdown but lost against Shell during the 1998 Governors Cup.

Williams was saddled by fouls early on while Chris Carrawell faded in the stretch, practically allowing the Phone Pals to finish the best-of-five semifinal duel, 3-2, with ease and prevented the Aces from etching their names in the annals of league history.

Scores:

TALK N TEXT 89—Honeycutt 29, Mickeal 28, Evans 12, Demape 6, Telan 5, Pablo 4, Lago 3, Belano 2, Fran 0.

ALASKA 73—Williams 24, Carrawell 23, Duat 10, Santos 8, Peek 6, Lastimosa 2, Feihl 0, Ticzon 0, Allado 0, Ordonio 0.

Quarters: 24-18, 49-37, 71-53, 89-73.

Sparks champions again

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Sparks made sure that the WNBA champions list remained at two teams.

Rookie Nikki Teasley hit a 3-pointer for the go-ahead basket with 2.1 seconds remaining and the Sparks beat the New York Liberty, 69-66, Saturday to successfully defend their title.

Only the Sparks and the Houston Comets, who claimed the first four WNBA titles, have won the championship in the league's six-year history. *AP*

NCAA tilt at Rizal

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)*
11:30 a.m.—CSB vs Letran (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—JRU vs UPHR (jrs/srs)

COLLEGE of St. Benilde and Jose Rizal University tackle separate opponents today with the hope of strengthening their bids for the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Heavy Bombers face the UPHR Altas at 4:30 p.m. after the Blazers meet the Letran Knights in the other senior game.

Marco Polo Fajardo and Joel Finuliar powered the Bombers to an 81-79 victory over the Blazers last Friday, a win that completed the semifinal cast and booted out the Knights.

Already out of the Final Four race, the Knights (6-6) will just fight for pride and dignity against the Blazers. *June Navarro*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Franke Miñoza shot an eight-under-par 64 to post a 16-stroke victory over Roger Antonio in the third leg of the Philip Morris Golf Classic in Bukidnon.

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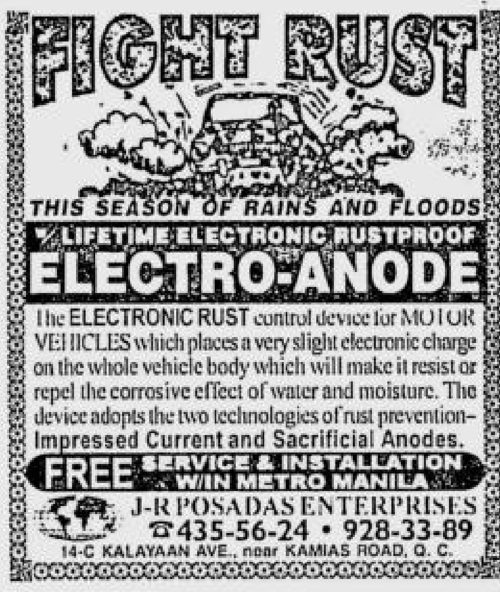

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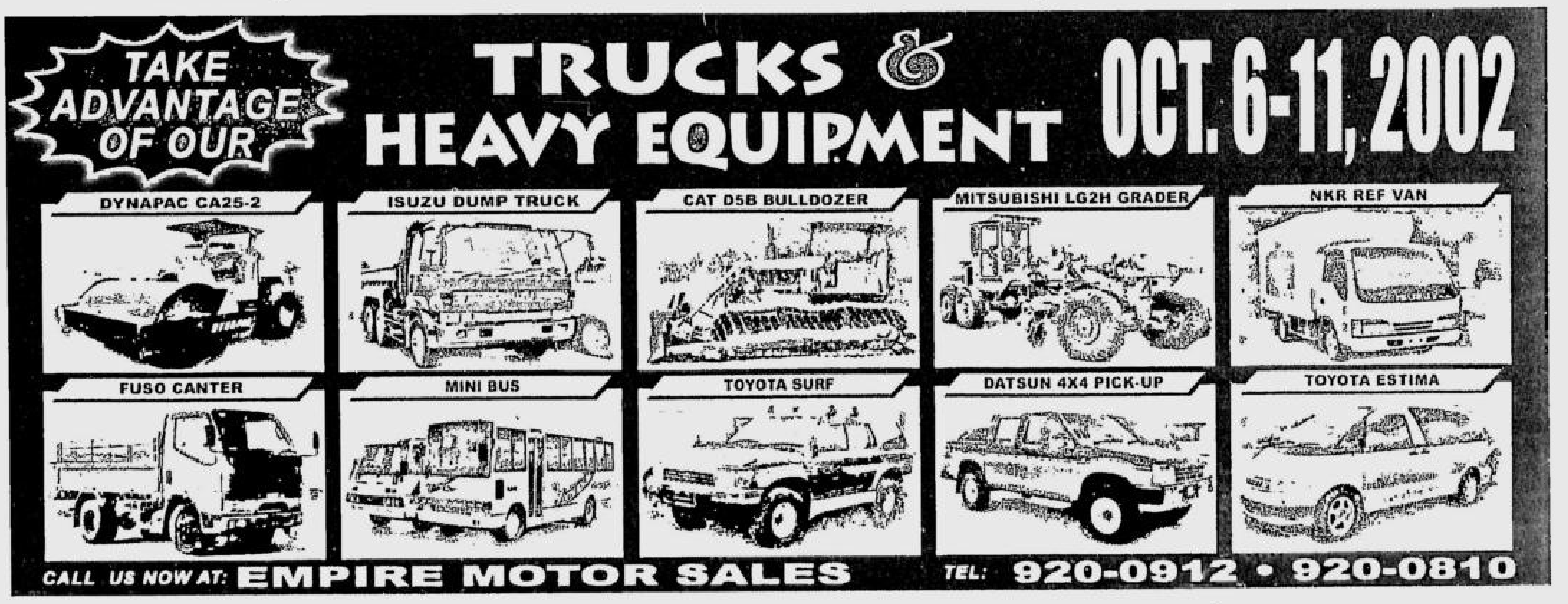

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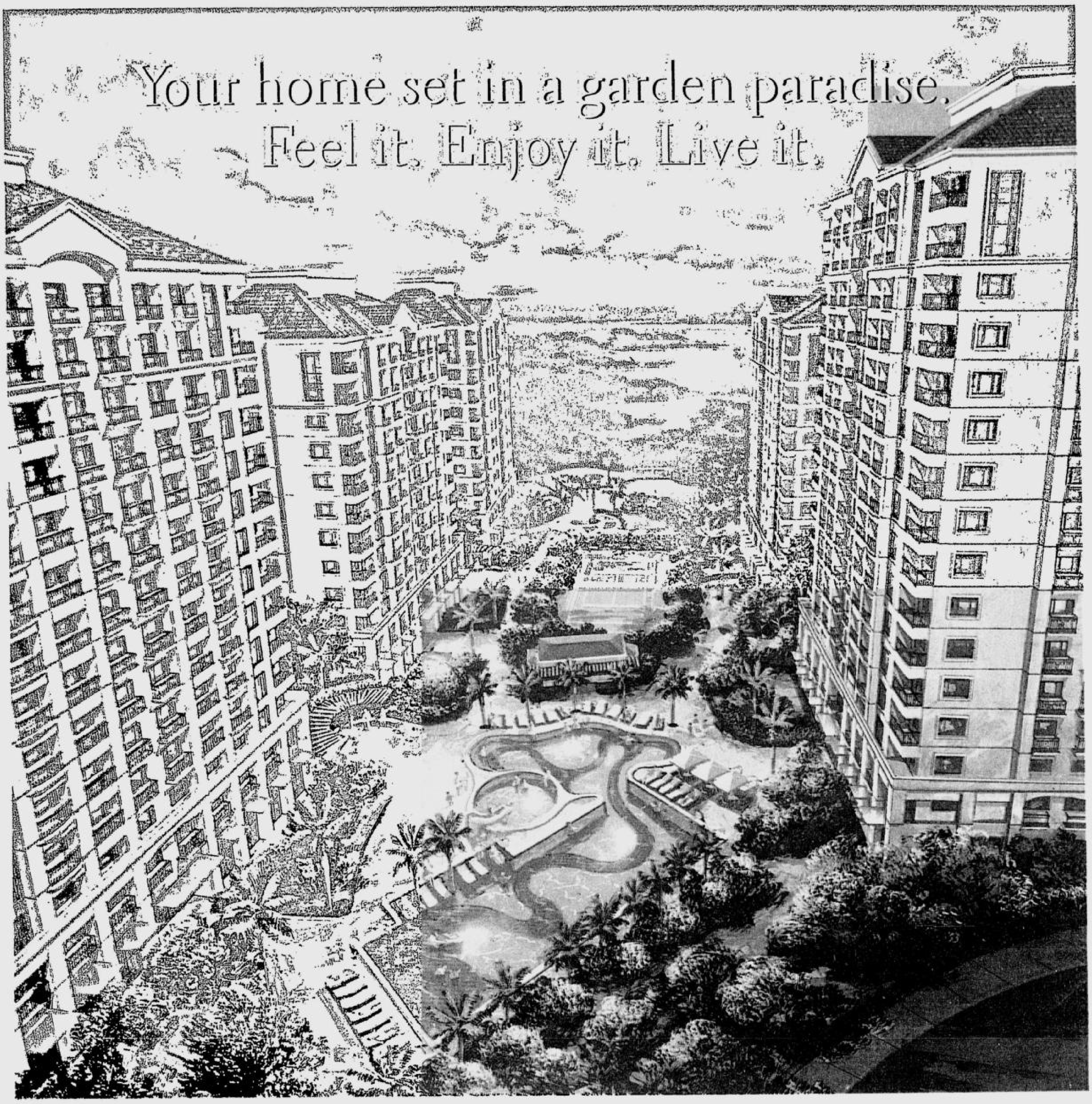
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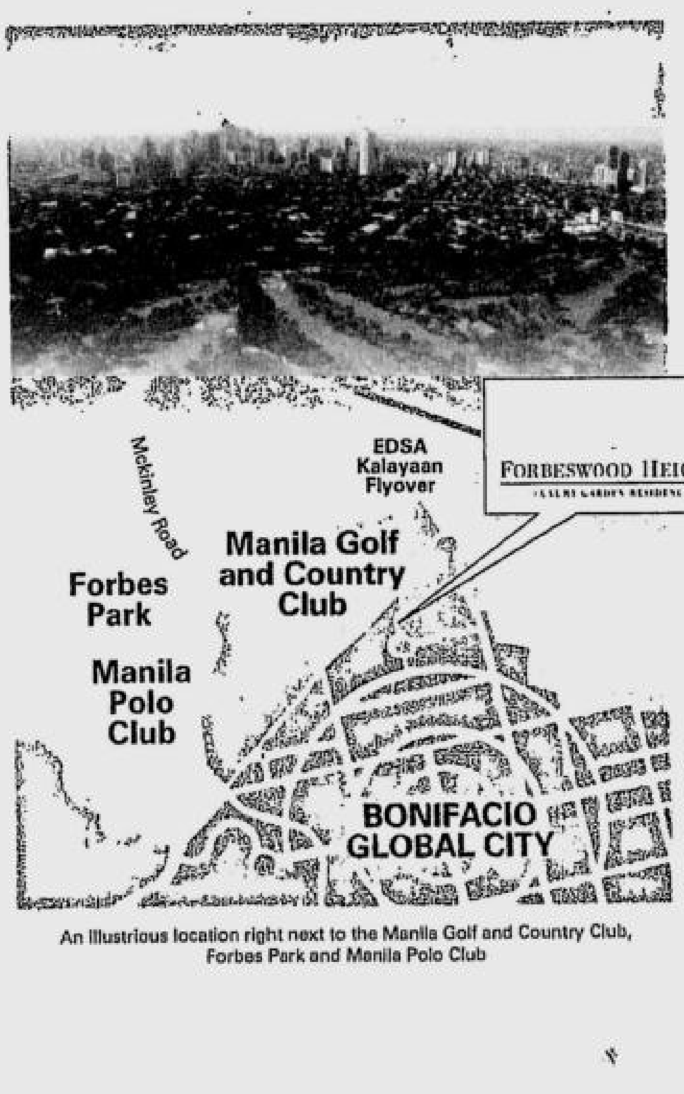
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ADB threatens to withdraw P8.9B loan if Pasig River shanties are razed /A26

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

RP basketball team: The dangers of winning /A26

Taguig moves to hold recall poll

By Christian V. Esguerra

DESCRIBING their move as a "moral crusade," 84 of the 162-member Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA) yesterday approved a recall petition against Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga, despite strong opposition from the mayor's supporters.

The PRA, composed of chairpersons and council members of the town's 18 barangays, signed a one-page resolution to urge the Commission on Elections to hold a recall election, citing loss of confidence in Tinga's leadership.

Tinga's arch-foe, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, initiated the recall petition.

Earlier in the day, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District director, relieved Taguig police chief Rodolfo Sison due to claims that he was partial to the embattled mayor.

Sison's replacement was made upon the request of Congressman Cayetano, according to the office of the mayor.

Tinga yesterday described the holding of the assembly as a "questionable" exercise since it supposedly had been adjourned earlier in the afternoon for lack of quorum.

"This (recall move) is divisive," he also told the INQUIRER. "We should just work together and set politics aside."

But Cayetano claimed victory in yesterday's exercise.

"May this serve as an example to all public officials to be more circumspect

TAGUIG /A26

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It's Caloocan dad's turn to picket MMDA

By Christian V. Esguerra

SANTIAGO

CALOOCAN councilman Nathanael Santiago led around 300 vendors in a protest action at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) compound in Makati City Thursday afternoon.

It was the first time Santiago openly defied Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, who strongly supports the clearing operations of MMDA chair Bayani Fernando.

The veteran street activist and the vendors slammed Fernando for his alleged oppressive policies against vendors.

But Malonzo and other Metro Manila mayors have thrown their support behind Fernando's resolve to clear sidewalks of all obstructions, particularly illegal vendors.

Santiago, however, was quick to deny that he did not mean to defy the city mayor when he led the protest action.

"So far, there's no tension between me and the mayor," he told the INQUIRER during the rally. "We may have differences in opinion but he respects the people's right to self-expression."

But the councilor admitted that he could come into conflict with Malonzo if the MMDA and Caloocan city officials continue to drive away the vendors, especially those in the congested Monumento and Balintawak areas.

"When that time comes, I'll try to convince the mayor not to support the drive," he said.

Last year, Santiago, a vocal critic of the government, made a surprising move to run for councilor under the ticket of Malonzo.

In an interview with the INQUIRER before the May elections, he emphasized that he would not hold his punches in the face of questionable policies by the local executive.

Malonzo, who is serving his third and last term, has recently been abandoned by Rep. Edgar Erice of the city Third District, who also ran under the mayor's ticket.

The lawmaker junked Malonzo when the mayor supposedly floated the idea of fielding his partner, Gigi Emnace, in the 2004 mayoral election.

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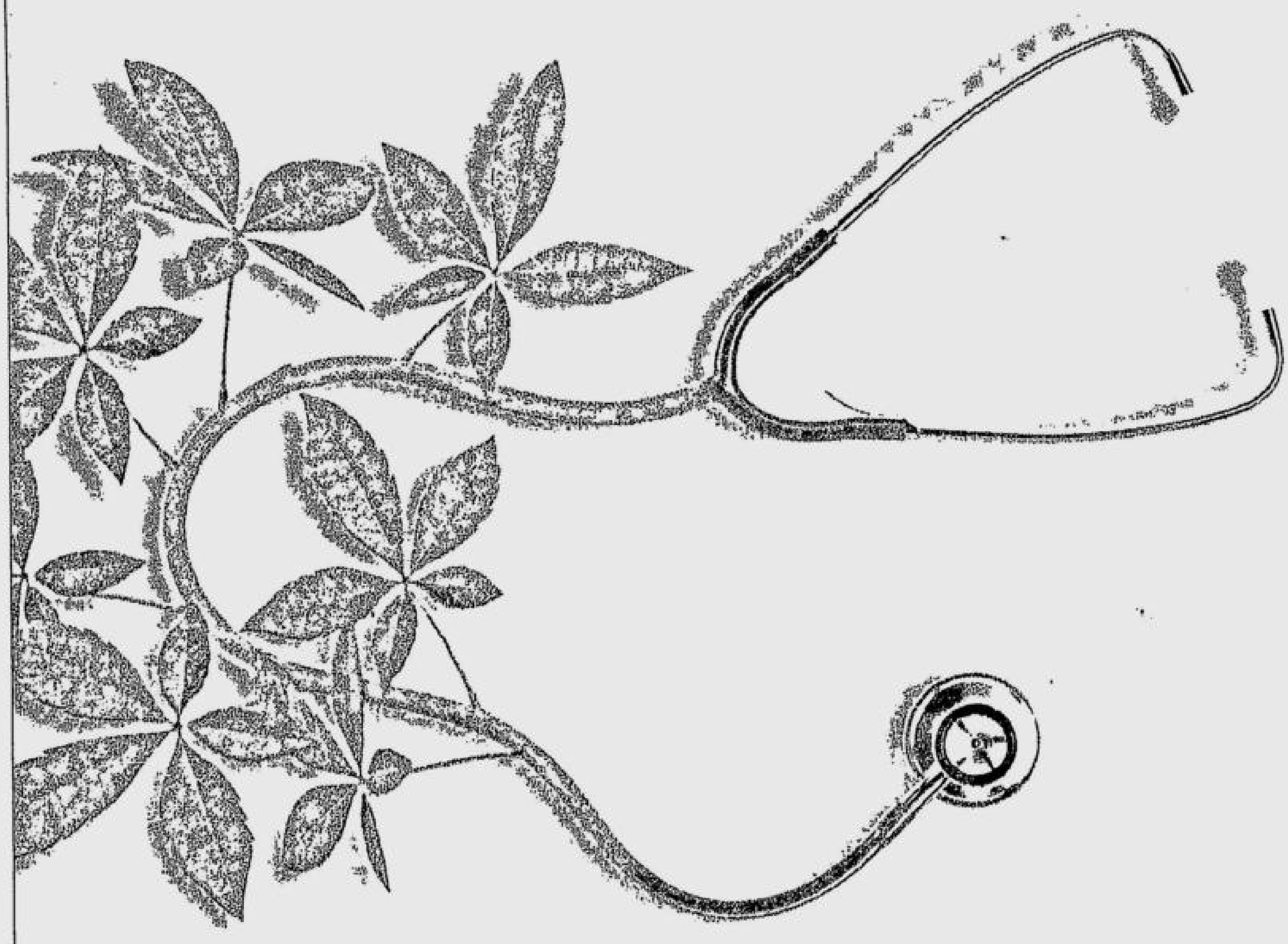

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ADB threatens to withdraw loan if Pasig River shanties are razed

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ASIAN Development Bank has reportedly threatened to withdraw its P8.9-billion loan for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River if government proceeds with the demolition of shanties lining the riverbank.

The Urban Poor Associates (UPA) said yesterday that the threat is contained in an ADB letter dated August 21 to Bingle Gutierrez, executive director of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

In the letter, the ADB supposedly warned the PRRC that the clearing of the Pasig riverbank of squatters would violate the rehabilitation agreement.

"Summary clearance of affected persons is not in conformity with the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the project," ADB director Peter Fedon supposedly wrote in the letter.

"Non-compliance with the RAP will most likely prove fatal to the entire (rehabilitation program). We urge government to implement the RAP rigorously."

Angging Aban of the UPA yesterday said that the Pasig rehabilitation plan calls for on-site or in-city relocation of around 50,000 informal settlers living on the heavily polluted river.

But the PRRC supposedly plans to move 10,000 of the informal settlers to the squalid Erap City or Kasiglahan Village 1 in Rizal.

The PRRC bared the impending displacement of squatters in an August 13 letter to the ADB, according to the UPA.

"Clearing of the riverbanks and relocation is the priority activity to be undertaken immediately," PRRC's Gutierrez supposedly wrote in the letter. "(The) government has exhausted all possible relocation options preferred by the affected families, particularly in-city relocation."

PILLOW WALK
This woman appears to be taking a leisurely walk while strutting her stuffed wares on a sidewalk in San Andres, Manila.
ERIK ARAZAS

Painter killed in Sta. Ana knife duel

By Philip Tubeza

AFTER a volley of invectives came the knife blows.

Painter Eduardo S. Reyes, 52, of Sta. Ana, Manila died after his neighbor Geronimo A. Matienzo stabbed him, said Detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District homicide section.

The policeman said the two men lunged at each other with knives after Reyes confronted Matienzo, 37, a pedicab driver, for allegedly cursing him at around 7 p.m. Saturday near the corner of Dagonoy and Iridium streets in Sta. Ana.

Salazar said when Reyes demanded an apology, Matienzo pulled out a knife.

Upon seeing the knife, Reyes also pulled out his own weapon, and the two men stabbed each other, Salazar said.

Matienzo lunged at Reyes and hit the victim near his left armpit, Salazar said.

The victim was taken to the Ospital ng Maynila where he was declared dead at 7:35 p.m., Salazar added.

Matienzo, who was also wounded, drove himself to the same hospital, where he received treatment.

Salazar said policemen from WPD Station 9 are now guarding the suspect.

He added police are now preparing homicide charges against Matienzo.

Man kills year-old stepdaughter in QC

By Agnes E. Donato

A YEAR-OLD girl was killed last week after her stepfather, annoyed by her crying, shook her and dropped her on a steel chair, hitting her head.

The baby's aunt, Maribeth Cabaquirao, on Saturday filed a complaint before the Central Police District against Jonard Foronda, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Police said Foronda fled after the baby was taken to the hospital on the night of Aug. 28.

PO2 Randy Escubido said Foronda was left to tend to baby Abigail Tortor that night.

Irritated by the baby's crying, Foronda allegedly picked her up and shook her hard. He then dropped the baby on a steel chair, causing the baby's head to hit the metal armrest.

2 dead in Antipolo videoke bar brawl

VIRGILIO Ponciano, 39, and Alma Magtangob, 22, were killed while two others were wounded in a shooting incident in Antipolo City early yesterday morning.

Police identified the wounded victims as Balbino Betorin, 39; and Manuel Engiao, 51, both of Antipolo.

Police said a certain "Totong" fled after shooting the victims with a 9-mm pistol at about 2 a.m. in front of the Bahay Pawid Videoke Bar on ML Quezon Avenue Extension, Barangay San Roque.

Police said Ponciano went out of the bar to investigate a commotion, and tried to intervene when he saw Engiao and Totong arguing.

Later, Totong took out out his pistol and went on a shooting rampage, police said.

Nelson Flores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 2, 2002
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5
Gospel: Lk 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

With this passage Luke presents the inauguration of Jesus' ministry: it is the fulfillment of the jubilee when all relations are to be set aright once again. "Today this writing is fulfilled in your hearing!" This is one of those three occasions in the third Gospel when we hear Jesus stating the beginning of a new reality (cf. Lk 19:9; 23:43). In Jesus' life and ministry the new age has dawned. His compatriots who wanted extraordinary feats were taken aback by Jesus' ordinariness: "Is not this man the son of Joseph?" Like Jesus' contemporaries, we Christian believers are challenged to discern in the ordinariness of our lives, while setting relations aright according to God's vision, the very signs of the inaugurated reign of God.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE: SUMMARY PROCEDURE)--Jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts over ejectment cases--Municipal Trial Courts, Metropolitan Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts now retain jurisdiction over ejectment cases even if the question of possession cannot be resolved without passing upon the issue of ownership. In forcible entry and unlawful detainer cases, even if the defendant raises the question of ownership in his pleadings and the question of possession cannot be resolved without deciding the issue of ownership, inferior courts, nonetheless, have the undoubted competence to provisionally resolve the issue of ownership for the sole purpose of determining the issue of possession. Such decision, however, does not bind the title or affect the ownership of the land or building, neither shall it bar an action between the same parties respecting title to the land or building not be held conclusive of the facts therein found in a case between the same parties upon a different cause of action involving possession. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Barba v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 126638, February 6, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

RP basketball team: The dangers of winning

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LYNDSAY Gaze, visiting Australian coach, came a humble breath short of saying we had been using the wrong textbook.

And just like me, Mr. Gaze would have been worried sick had the RP national basketball team licked the visiting Melbourne Tigers in their first meeting at the Cuneta Astrodome on Thursday.

OK, Melbourne won, 80-76 but the final score failed to deliver the final message.

Melbourne, on Tuesday, was over 10 points better than RP. Teamwise.

The visitors scored baskets, sometimes without spending a single dribble, like humming a tune.

RP? Most of its goals were hysterically muscled in, bug, bam, blugh, not unlike a heavy vehicle going up a hill on the wrong gear.

***

A lot of fans will hate me for this, but who cares?

The Australian squad, the way it performed, did not appear too intent on winning.

Yes, they had to regroup and allowed themselves to be pushed to the limit.

That first game could appear close, based on the final count.

On the whole, though, it was easy to suspect that the visitors came to play what should be called an instructional game.

Again, pardon me, but a victory by the Philippines, which had appeared hysterically possible in the final minutes on Thursday, would have amounted to throwing the successful professor out of the window at the end of the school year.

***

And nobody would have dared ask Mr. Gaze how he would reform the RP team.

Gaze, with the face and slim frame of a saint, tried to play it sweet and said nothing was seriously wrong.

But pressed on, he said RP needed more games of international level. He repeated the worn-out dig that our players waste a lot of precious time holding on to the ball, then dribbling it long, uselessly.

Gaze also recommended that our players must learn and work hard to put more defensive pressure.

All told, he made it clear that RP had to learn how to play the motion game.

Truth did hurt, and you could sense Mr. Gaze struggling with inborn kindness in honestly mouthing his stark observations.

***

You know Mr. Gaze would have been greatly alarmed had RP won that first of two friendship games on Thursday.

Why? This would have sent the very wrong message that coach Jong Uichico, his staff and players, have been doing the right thing.

Mr. Gaze said he was impressed with the RP team.

But Mr. Uichico was not in the mood to share that generous observation.

Uichico, upon emerging from the dugout on Thursday, honestly claimed that his players still had to struggle with bad habits picked up in the PBA.

They play with a lot of ego, held on to the ball too long, are often left with only a single scoring option.

Unlike the Aussies, Uichico agreed, who moved in like an orchestrated troop, descending upon the other side with neat passes and precise movements without the ball.

Coach Eric Altamirano could only nod in agreement.

***

Yes, there's also a grave danger in winning.

And we can only hope and pray that the RP squad does not get giddy after it won the second of two friendship matches against the Melbourne Tigers.

That buzzer-beater by Eric Menk at Araneta on Saturday was celebrated with a jumping shriek.

A win is a win. You don't have to be flatly patriotic, like referee Richard Villanueva in the first match of the friendship encounter with the Aussies, to swim in the hysteria.

It would however be blind folly if they suddenly believe the RP squad had managed to become three points better than the visitors overnight.

There definitely will be loads and loads of hard work ahead.

A more challenging task comes in trying to drop the old egotistical habits our players have picked up in their pro league.

***

Repeat: the Aussies did not come here to win.

Unlike in olden times, during the days of Caloy Loyzaga & Co., foreign squads no longer cherish the bragging rights of having beaten the RP National team.

At least Lindsay Gaze, his great son Andrew, dubbed in the PBA Press Corps dugout as Human Rolls Royce with his smooth moves, have succeeded in providing our team a timely check-up.

At least Asi Taulava has been told it's still a transition, motion game, not a wrestling tournament, his team will be competing in during the Busan Games.

Old (PBA) habits die hard.

But Lindsay Gaze appeared happy enough to have sensed that changes could be forthcoming with the timely instructions he had imparted.

Let's now pray and say our thanks to this saintly professor.

Man makes his last debt collection

A WORKER was killed Friday morning when he tried to collect a debt from his neighbor in Quezon City.

Victor Pecana, 20, of Krus na Ligas, Quezon City, was stabbed several times and was pronounced dead at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Police are now looking for the suspect identified only as "Dagul."

PO2 Pedrito Miranda of the Central Police District's criminal investigation unit said the suspect was drinking with some of his friends at around 1:30 a.m. near the victim's house on Eugenio Street, when Pecana arrived and asked the suspect to settle his debt.

The confrontation immediately turned into a heated argument, and the suspect, embarrassed before his drinking mates, pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim repeatedly.

The suspect fled from the scene after the incident while the victim was taken to the hospital.

Alcuin Papa

Taguig moves . . .

From page A25

in the exercise of their authority," Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters after the assembly.

Cayetano said he is confident that a recall election would be held by late October or in the middle of November. He said his camp would field in businessman Rafael "Boy" Dizon III, a relative of ex-Taguig Mayor Ricardo Papa.

Anti-Tinga members of the PRA had to hold their assembly outside the IMP Sea Breeze Resort in Barangay Hagonoy after around 200 rowdy supporters of the mayor, led by municipal employees, set up barricades on the narrow streets leading to the venue. The assembly, which was originally scheduled at 2 p.m., was delayed by at least two hours.

Wearing yellow ribbons and some of them armed with clubs, Tinga's supporters refused to allow PRA delegates and members of the media to enter the resort. They also virtually held hostage around 30 followers of Cayetano inside the resort.

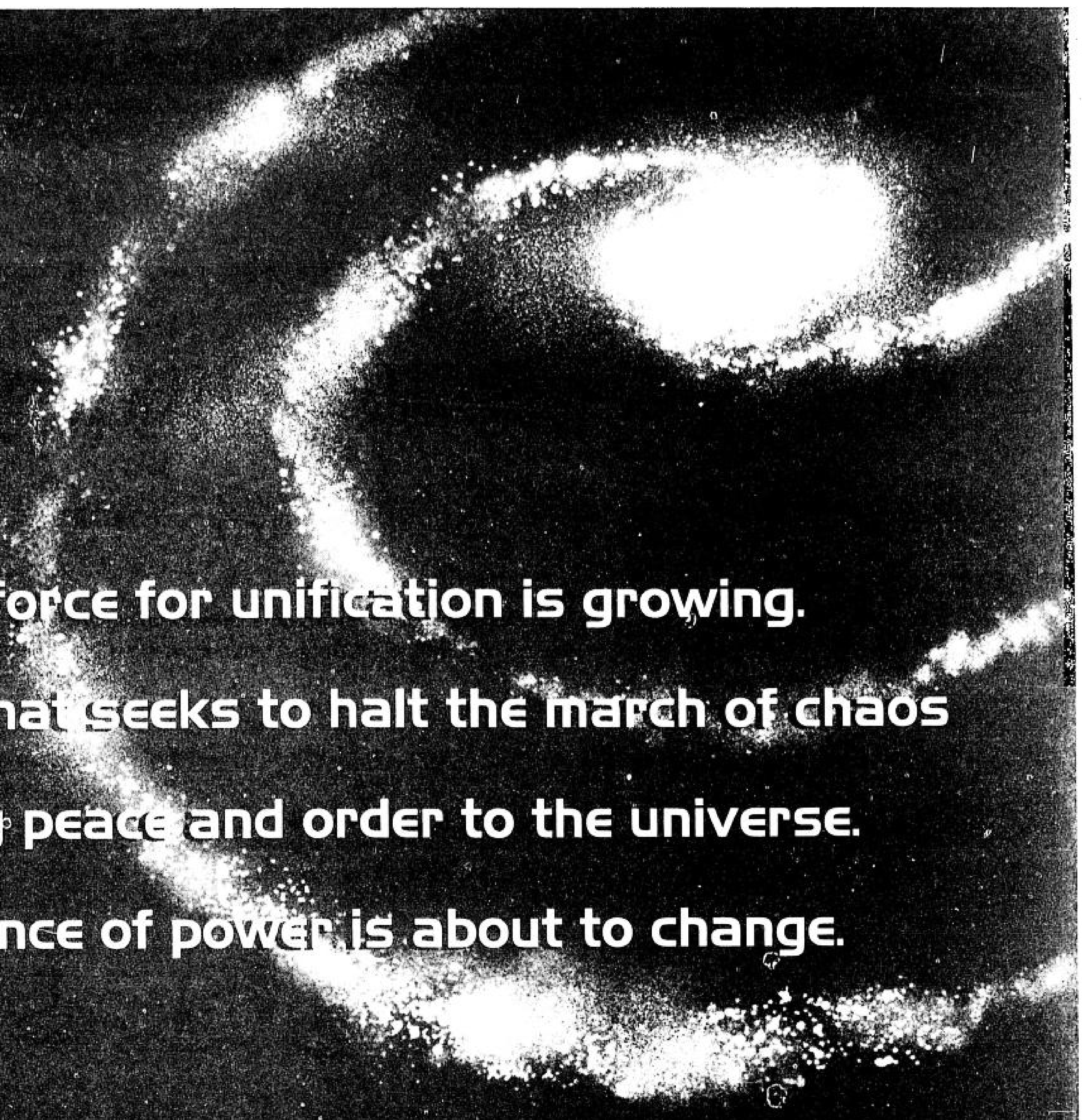
Anti-riot policemen and members of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit did very little to control the unruly crowd since they themselves could not penetrate the area.

On Saturday morning, Taguig's former police chief Sison went to the seminar of barangay chairpersons and council members in Subic to fetch two officers and bring them to the mayor, Cayetano claimed.

The move to unseat Tinga through a recall swelled after it was reported that the mayor allegedly began spending around P15 million in the monthly salary of some 3,000 casual employees of the municipal hall.

Several of the employees are supposedly related to the mayor.

Prior to the recall assembly, Tinga and Cayetano had been caught in a petty conflict over who should get credit for their various infrastructure projects.



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3	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30
4	DERAILED
5	SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON
6	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER
7	INSOMNIA

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GB3 GREENBELT 3

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2	SIGNS 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20
3	ABOUT A BOY 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20
4	INSOMNIA 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
5	TRIPLE X 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20

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4
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6 (DTS)
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7	
8	

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3	

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6	UNFAITHFUL
7	DERAILED

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2	DERAILED

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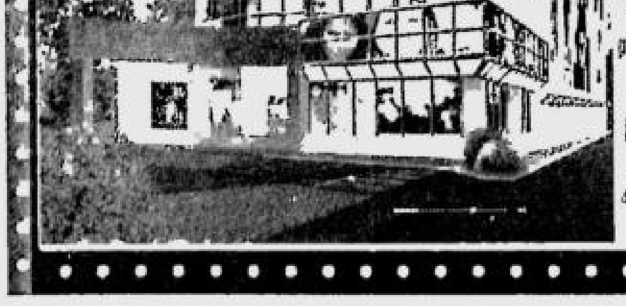

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3	SIGNS
4	SPIRIT
5	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
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8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	AUSTIN POWERS...
10	JOLOGS

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2	SPIRIT
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY
11	SWEETEST THING
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA

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1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	INSOMNIA
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	TRIPLE X
7	SPIRIT
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	SWEETEST THING
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1	SIGNS
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	SIGNS
4	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6	UNFAITHFUL
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	LILO & STITCH
11	JOLOGS
12	SPIRIT

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1	DERAILED
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	AUSTIN POWERS
6	SIGNS
7	SPIRIT
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL

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1	SPIRIT
2	DERAILED
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN
10	UNFAITHFUL

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	TRIPLE X
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3	LILO & STITCH
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	SPIRIT

SM CITY ILOILO

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1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	JOLOGS
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	CLOSED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA

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1	SIGNS
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	SPIRIT
4	GAMITAN
5	TRIPLE X
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

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1	GAMITAN
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	TRIPLE X

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1	SIGNS
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY DAVAO

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4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	SPIRIT

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Censors' chief defends her board

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MARI-LEN Dinglasan, chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), insisted that fair play is the foremost concern of the board after industry insiders recently accused her of discrimination.

The accusation was prompted by the X-rating given twice to **Maryo J. de los Reyes'** sex-drama, "Laman," produced by Regal Films.

"We follow only set rules," Dinglasan stressed. "The same rules go for everybody. Nobody gets special treatment and nobody is above the law."

Dinglasan added that the board is not after the quality or lack of quality of the films.

"Chapter II, Section 2 of the board's 'Implementing Rules and Regulations,' states clearly that 'quality or lack of quality' is a matter for film critics and the audience to decide."

Since she assumed office last June, Dinglasan made it clear that she would not court controversies for the board. "Controversies would eventually prove counterproductive," she said. "For as long as the guidelines of the MTRCB are strictly observed by those concerned, I don't see any problem."

Yet, when two separate review committees gave the **Albert Martinez-Joyce Jimenez** starrer, "Ang Galing Mo Babes" an X-rating twice, Dinglasan immediately got the ire of several industry people.

"They were blaming me for it when I didn't even see the film," Dinglasan explained. "I had nothing to do with the rating."

Dinglasan was also criticized for the X-rating given to several award-winning foreign movies shown during the Cinemanila film festival.

"Let's look at it in context," Dinglasan said. "If the scenes are needed in the film, we will allow them. But if they are there just to satisfy gratuitous or prurient interests, we will recommend them to be deleted."

The issue over "Laman," according to the censors' chief, is merely a procedural matter.

"The producer, director or whoever is responsible for securing the permit for the showing of the movie should just make sure that the rules and regulations of the board are properly observed and that requirements are coupled with," Dinglasan said.

"Laman," which stars sexy newcomer **Lolita de Leon**, received an X-rating from a three-member review committee, then it was submitted again for a second review. The second review committee composed of five members, also unanimously gave the film an "X-rating," which subsequently created a stir and earned flak for the board.

The playdate of the movie, originally slated for an Aug. 28 release, was moved to Sept. 11, since the producers are waiting for a more favorable rating.

However, Dinglasan remains unruffled despite the criticism being hurled at her board.

DINGLASAN. Fair play, she says, is the MTRCB's foremost concern.

"They can criticize the board all they want, but I still will insist on going by the rules and intentions of the PD 1986, which created the MTRCB," Dinglasan said. "Is it wrong for me to make sure that the board is doing its job? After all, that's my job."

Stressing that simple rules only needed to be followed, Dinglasan said, "If only everybody bothered to read the rules and regulations of the board, so they know what they can do or not do; or what can be done or how far something can be done; if they know and understand, and then just follow, then we won't have any of these controversies to deal with."

Before, when a film merited an X-rating twice, there was an Appeals Committee in Malacañang which determined the final rating for the movie. But when **Armida Siguion-Reyna** assumed office as MTRCB chair, the Appeals Committee was abolished.

"Through a memo of circular, the producers are now allowed to reshoot 30 percent of the film or delete the objectionable scenes," said Dinglasan, who replaced **Alejandro "Anding" Roces**.

The censors chief admits she is a tyro when it comes to classifying films.

"I don't have that much experience," she says. "I'm the new kid on the block, but I've been a movie fan for a long time."

She assures the public that the MTRCB is right on track. "We are here to assist the movie industry and not to cause its failure," she said. "The board and those in the movies share a common goal and that is to see a strong and viable film industry."

Dinglasan, who is a presidential appointee, said she accepted the position as censors chief because she couldn't say no to Pres. **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.**

"I come to this office with an open mind and sincere intentions to fulfill the functions and responsibilities expected of me with the best of my abilities," Dinglasan said.

In her first few days on the job, Dinglasan, who is diabetic, attests her sugar level was high because of the stress. Yet, she shows no let-up as the censors' chief. She works till 9 p.m. every day at the MTRCB's new office along Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

"Every day, I have to sign permits because there are producers who are always rushing for the review," Dinglasan said. "They want to know right away whether the film has been approved or not."

Her only complaint is the budget allotted to the MTRCB.

"The Department of Budget gave us only P26 million," Dinglasan explained. "Any amount we collect goes to the national treasurer. In our new office, everything is still in shambles. Some of the computers are still in Aurora (Boulevard office). So we went back to the old days and compute everything manually. Que horor!

"We don't even have a budget to renovate. We have a bare office setup. We use Monobloc chairs borrowed from the homes of the employees. We only have three TV rooms and a movie projector. I believe we are the biggest beggar of the government."

Still, Dinglasan believes nothing is insurmountable. She commends the members of her board for the effort and hard work they have been putting in, despite the meager pay from the government.

"There are some members who review as much as five films a day," Dinglasan pointed out. "I've been fighting to increase the budget for the members, but that's according to the law and it seems that we can't do anything about it. Before I assumed office, I talked to all of them. I want to make them a working board."

Prior to her appointment as censors chief, Dinglasan served as vice chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board, where she participated in anti-piracy campaigns for almost two years. "But we were not as aggressive and *masipag* as **Bong Revilla** is now," she said. "And he is not scared. I hope he knows it's not just the movies here. I want to do that in the MTRCB but my four children don't want me to."

Dinglasan believes her appointment as MTRCB chief is the Lord's mission for her.

"It took me three weeks to decide before I finally give my nod to the President," she said. "I asked the Lord if this is the way He wants me to serve at this point. Now, I thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him in a new way. I have survived my medical crisis, so I believe He has a mission for me."

Eminem wins at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK—Rapper Eminem walked off with four MTV Video Music Awards, including one for video of the year, in a show bookended by rousing performances by Bruce Springsteen and a rare appearance by heavy metal rockers Guns N' Roses.

Eminem, who also won awards for best male video, best rap video and best direction, said of the "moonman" statuette that was MTV's symbol in its early days, "I'm taking this home for rap—period."

His video, "Without You" won video of the year honors. The rapper won four MTV awards in 1999 and 2000.

The mood at the annual awards show at New York City's Radio City Music Hall alternated between irreverent and somber. The program opened on a solemn note, with Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band playing "The Rising," the title track to his new hit album inspired by the Sept. 11 tragedy and its aftermath.

In a lighter moment, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani quipped from the stage, "Last year at this time, it's very possible I'd be ticketing your double-parked cars out there."

Giuliani thanked musicians for showing the city their support in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, and introduced singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow, who performed against a backdrop of images from that day.

Reuters

Samar clergy in concert

FOR THE first time, the Samareños and the Warays in Metro Manila will be entertained uniquely by a group of young priests and the bishop of the diocese of Calbayog, Samar.

They will present a three-hour show, "Calbayog Clergy in Concert: An Evening of Faith and Music," Sept. 15 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni Convention Hall.

The presentation is a repertoire of Waray folk songs as well as religious, popular Broadway and Tagalog classics.

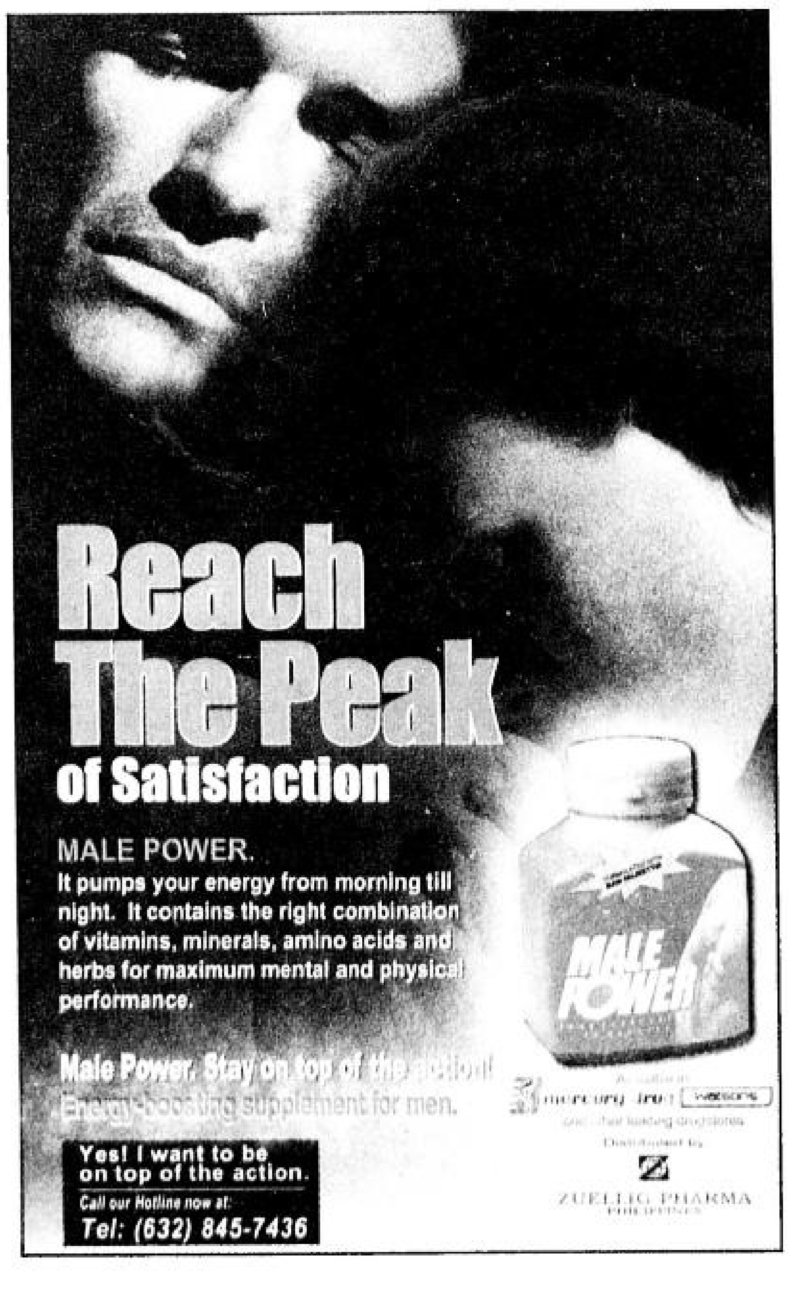
The presentation participated in by the Calbayog clergy and the bishop himself, Msgr. Jose Palma DD is "a way to reach out to our fellow kababayans who are away from home and I'm sure our presentation will be cherished by the Samar and Leyte Bisayans in Manila," said Bishop Palma.

"Through this concert we also hope that the younger generation of Bisayans who grew up in Manila may also be given a chance to explore the richness and vitality of the poetry and songs of their parents and grandparents."

The Manila Concert will come after a series of reach-out concerts in Catbalogan (last Aug. 21) and Calbayog (Sept. 2). Whatever funds that may be generated will be used for the reconstruction of the old Seminary fondly called Patria which was razed by fire last April 9, 2001.

The concert is coordinated by Sangkay, Inc., an alliance of Samar hometown organizations in Metro Manila.

For details, call Sangkay Rudy Babalcon Tel. 9281968 o 9283929 or text 0918-3421295 (Fr. Jun); 09178100930 (Fr. Lito).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New band made of 'That's' boys

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

QUWATRO: Kuya Germs' ex-wards Michael Villanueva, Raeyann Basa, Jayson Roman and Martin Roa.

ADD QUWATRO to the growing list of boy bands.

Quwatro comprises four ex-members of "That's Entertainment." Three of them were from the Friday group: Michael Villanueva, Raeyann Basa and Jayson Roman. The fourth member, Martin Roa, was in "That's" for only a year (1995-1996), but he maintained his ties with the other three even after the variety show went off the air.

Michael, brother of Mikee Villanueva, another "That's Entertainment" mainstay, has appeared as a guest on several TV shows as well as in action and drama movies. Raeyann, at 22 the youngest in the group, recorded a solo album and has appeared in some commercials.

Jayson, real name John Flora, is a former contract star of Octoarts Films. He has performed in provincial concerts and done some ramp modelling.

Martin's real name is Edesser Lastimosa. Aside from doing product endorsements, Martin has appeared on TV shows and movies, made the rounds of the mall and the bar circuit.

Late last year, the four young men decided to form a group. They used to be introduced as That's Men in road shows here and abroad. That, they explain, is because they are proud of having been part of "That's Entertainment" and they consider *Kuya* Germs Moreno as the coolest mentor.

When they were still planning the group, they met singer/composer Michael Laygo who at the time was thinking of starting a boy band and had in fact composed songs for the group in his mind. The five of them sat down and, after some brainstorming, decided to put Michael in charge of the boy band.

Michael and his wife Joy put up a company called Applause Entertainment to manage talents, produce shows and records. Joy is familiar with the business, having produced concerts while running a record outfit.

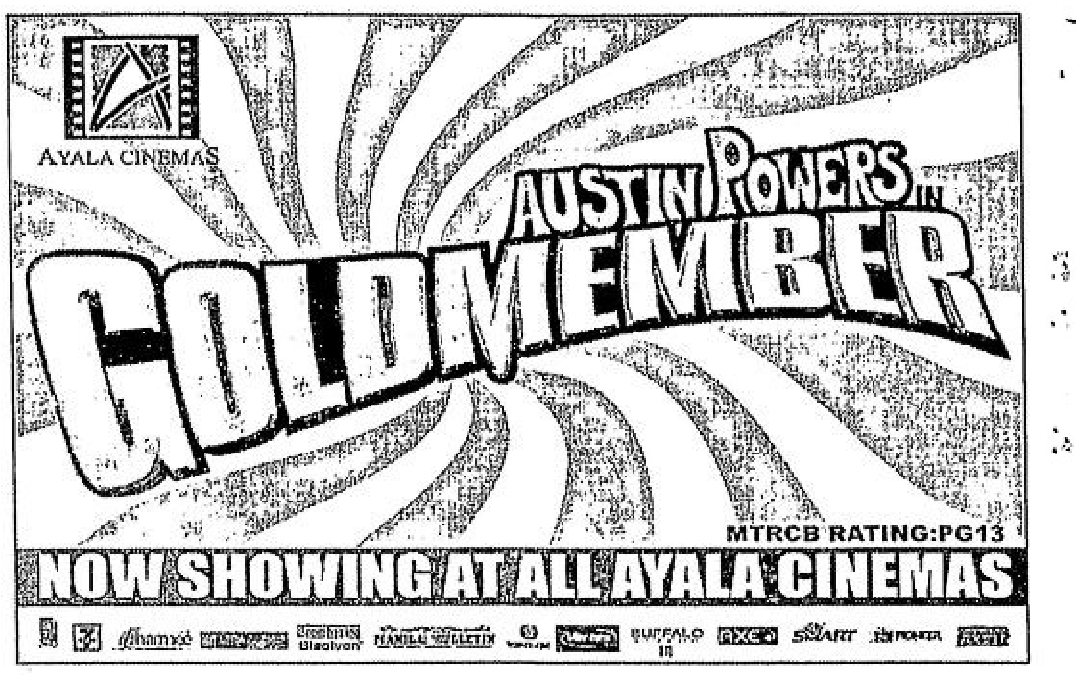
And so a new boy band is born, with Michael writing and producing music, Joy taking care of the marketing, and Quwatro doing what they do best—entertaining.

Applause started to scout around for schools that would welcome a Quwatro performance. To their surprise, some schools called back, saying they wanted a show of the new group.

Quwarto will be doing nothing else but campus shows until the end of the year.

In its debut album, Quwatro sings original songs like "Kung Maging Akin Ka Lang," "Para Sa 'Yo," "Dahil," and the carrier cut, "Sasabog ang Puso." Michael also wrote the lyrics of the bouncy cut "Uno, Dos, Tres, Quwatro."

Quwatro's self-titled album is distributed by BMG Records.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– Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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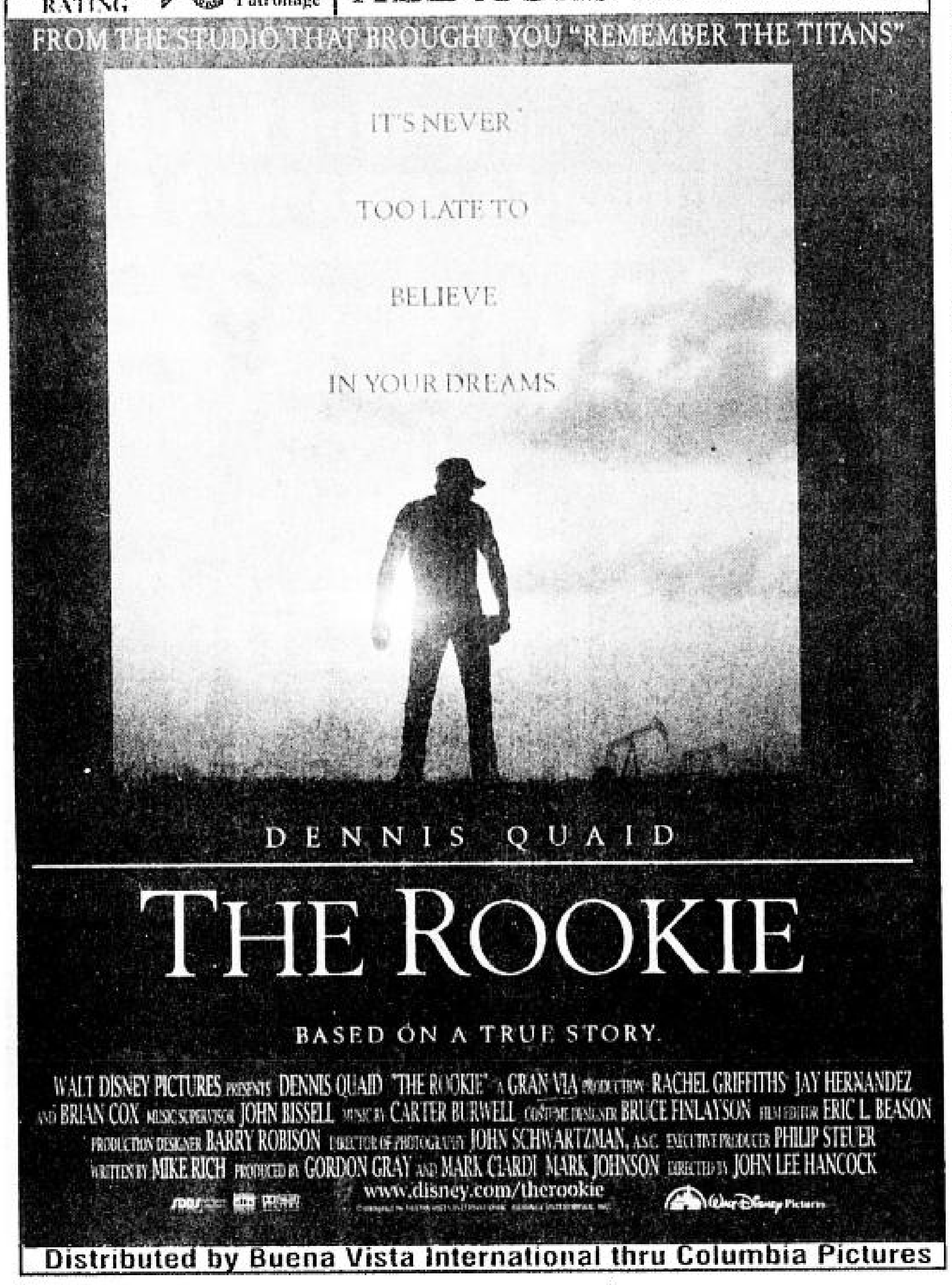
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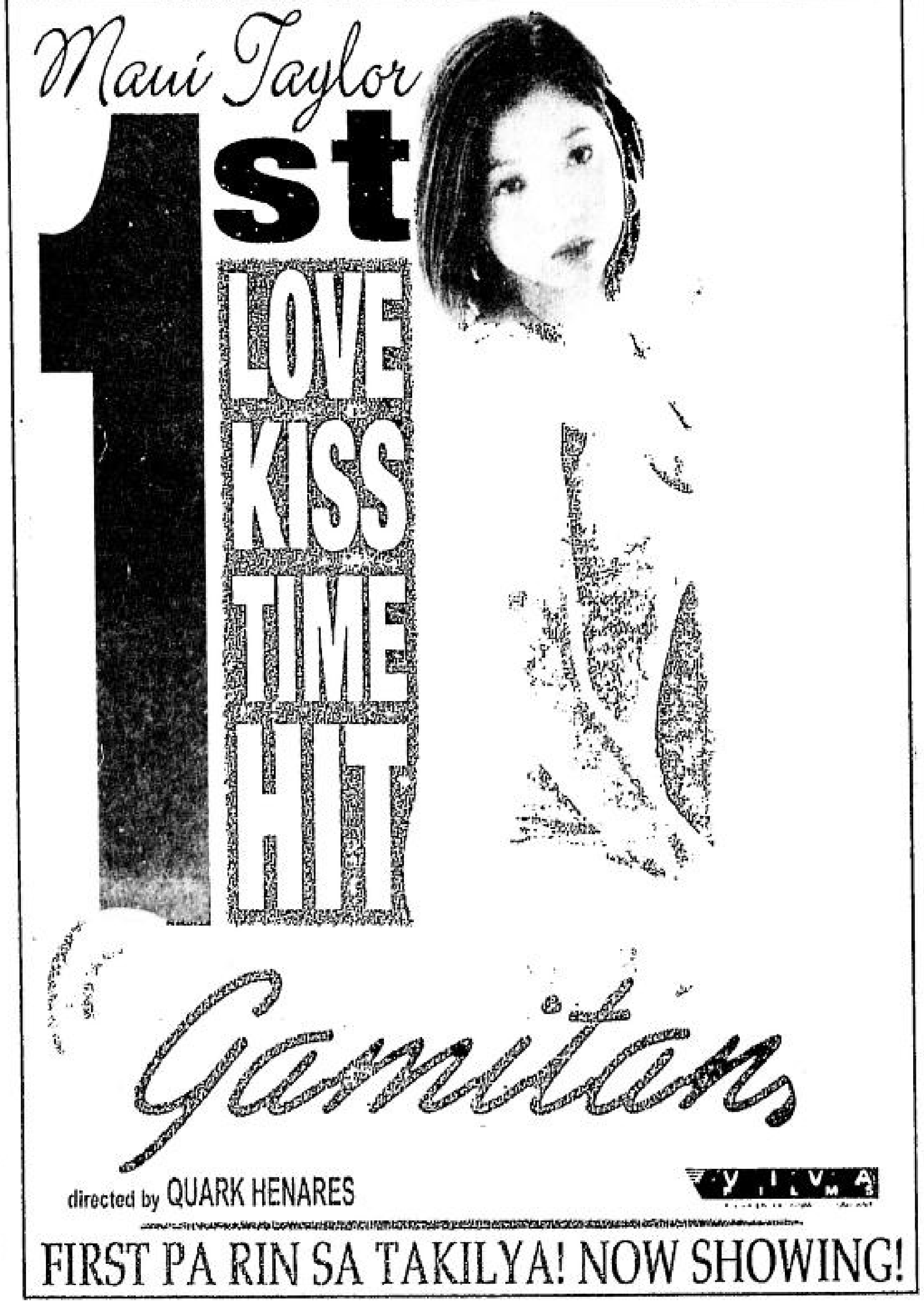
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Gamitan

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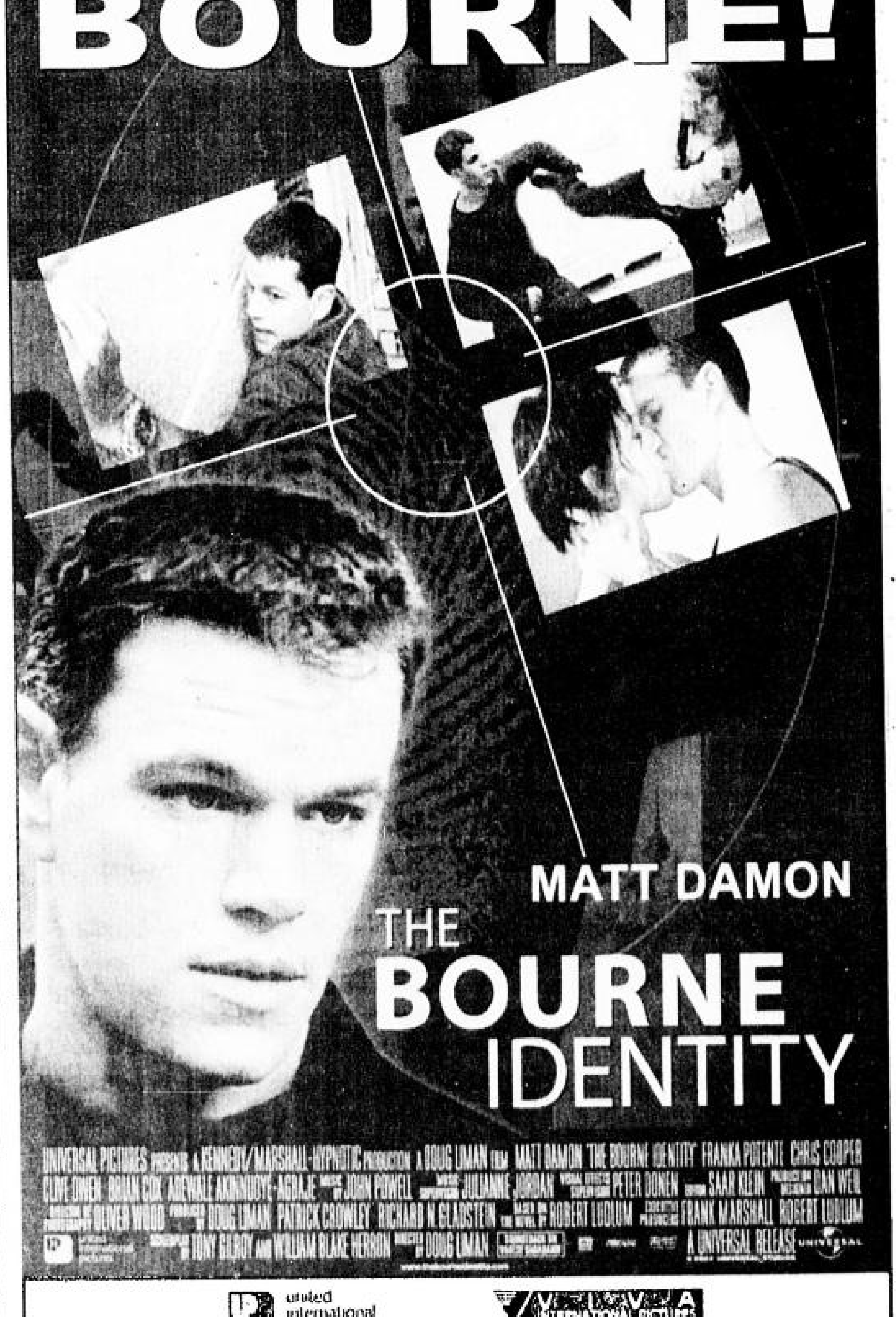
A NEW ACTION HERO IS BOURNE!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SEPTEMBER 4

Tricks and treats

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"AUSTIN Powers 3: Goldmember" has everything going for it—except a good story. The film tries to compensate for that deficiency with great production values, idiosyncratic characters, popular guest stars, hysterical humor, and a huge budget, but not very successfully.

Still, it's an occasionally fun trip, if you don't mind going for long stretches without much *really* happening. For our part, however, we like a good, inventive, eventful story, which this movie doesn't have.

What it *does* offer is a thumbnail sketch of a plot about superagent Austin (**Mike Myers**) looking for his long-absent father (**Michael Caine**), who has been spirited away by Austin's arch-nemesis, Dr. Evil, to use as psychological blackmail so our hero won't be able to foil the nasty villain's masterplan for our world domination.

That's it? That's it.

To be sure, the movie keeps its "production values" and other surprises coming. From the film's first sequence onward, we keep getting bombarded with all sorts of tricks and treats.

Like, instead of Myers, it's **Tom Cruise** (no less!) who first plays Austin Powers, with **Gwyneth Paltrow** as his sexy main squeeze, and **Kevin Spacey** as Dr. Evil—*and* **Danny DeVito** as Mini-Me!

What's going on here? It turns out that they're shooting a film about Austin's exploits—and they aren't the only top stars doing guest cameos here. Would you believe, at one point, **John Travolta** gets to share the Goldmember role with Myers?

Oh, yes, Myers plays practically all of the important characters in this film, be they good guys or bad. It's a good thing he isn't black, or else he would have done **Beyonce Knowles**' role as well!

Now, that would have been a real bummer, because Beyonce is a sexy sensation in her first major film role here.

Why is Myers so eager to play so many different characters in one movie? To demonstrate his versatility? To save money for the production? Perhaps.

But we feel that he's really doing it to beat **Eddie Murphy** at his own game. If Murphy can play six characters in one film, why, Myers won't stop until he can play seven!

Unfortunately, all this is icing on a very hard, little cake.

The film does better in the humor department, except that Myers occasionally tends to beat a joke to death. More often, however, the movie comes up with over-the-top but still funny routines that elicit occasional bleats of delight from the audience.

Summing up, "Austin Powers 3" would have been a bigger treat if it had less of Myers—and more plot!

New website

THE Harry Potter film franchise has a new website, www.harrypotter.com, set up just in time for the November release of its second installment, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

The newly-expanded site features exclusive material, interactive fan opportunities, and news about the highly-anticipated film.

In the first year of its launch, the original Harry Potter website attracted 25 million visitors and drew one million subscribers to the web-based newsletter.

In 2002, it has attracted 459 million pageviews, with over three million interactive postcards sent, and 3.6 million magical creatures made.

The newly-relaunched site features an animated short film, a new homepage, and the interactive game, "Escape from the Dursleys," in which participants can help Harry escape the clutches of his controlling family and return to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Lani Misalucha conquers LA

MISALUCHA

FRESH from winning the "Entertainer of the Year" trophy from Aliw Awards in Manila, Lani Misalucha captivated the audience with the vocal prowess and versatility in her first solo concert in Los Angeles last Aug. 10.

Lani left the audience breathless and raving for more, as she displayed her powerful vocal range and sang pop ballads, classical and even rock songs.

For her marvelous opening number, Lani emerged from the stage on a red, satin caped gown with a Victorian collar and sang the aria from the movie, "Fifth Element," which she segued to Whitney Houston's "Queen of the Night."

She then followed it with Aretha Franklin's "Deeper Love" and "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me."

Then she jazzed up everybody with her version of "Orange Colored Sky."

Reminiscing her early years in the business, she did the "Puesto" medley of her favorite lounge songs that included "One Hello," "You Ought To Know By Now," "Land of the Loving," "Bridges" and "Follow Your Road."

She followed it up with another medley, this time of soap opera themes—"Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga" and "Pangako sa 'Yo."

Guest Jed Madela gave the LA audience a taste of his performance style with Brian McKnight's "One Last Cry." Jed had just been discovered by Lani's manager, Ronnie Henares.

For her finale, Lani did a Michel Legrand medley which featured her favorite Barbra Streisand songs—"Piece of Sky" and "Papa, Can You Hear Me."

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SIGNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DERAILED
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAMASAN / MONSTER BALL
ODEON	DERAILED
ODEON-2	RESIDENT EVIL / PILAK
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	K-PAX / ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	DERAILED
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	GAMITAN
B	JOLOGS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-2	SIGNS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-8	JOLOGS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-12	SIGNS
CINEMA-14	DERAILED
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
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CINEMA-1	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE-X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	SIGNS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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AUSTIN POWERS - 13P 12:20,2:30,4:40,6:50 SIGNS - P13 9:00	JOLOGS P13 11:45,1:55,4:05, 6:15,8:25	SIGNS P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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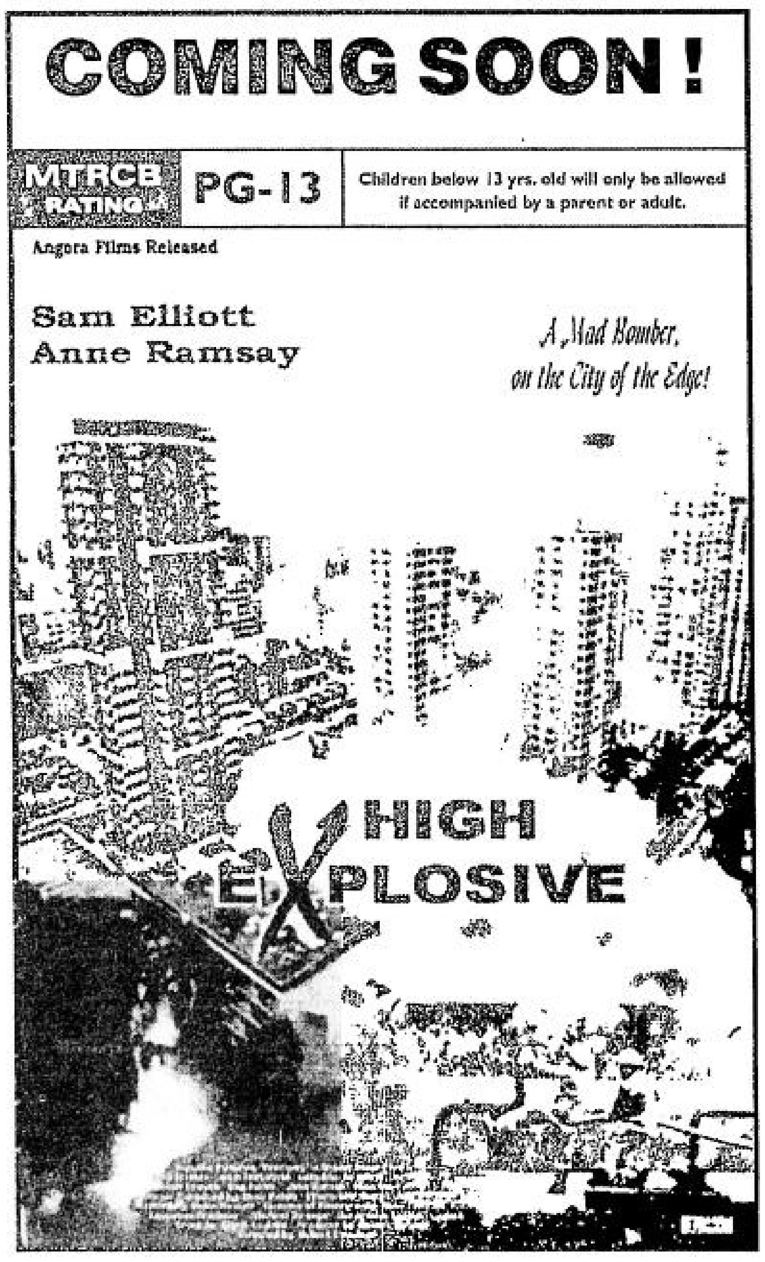

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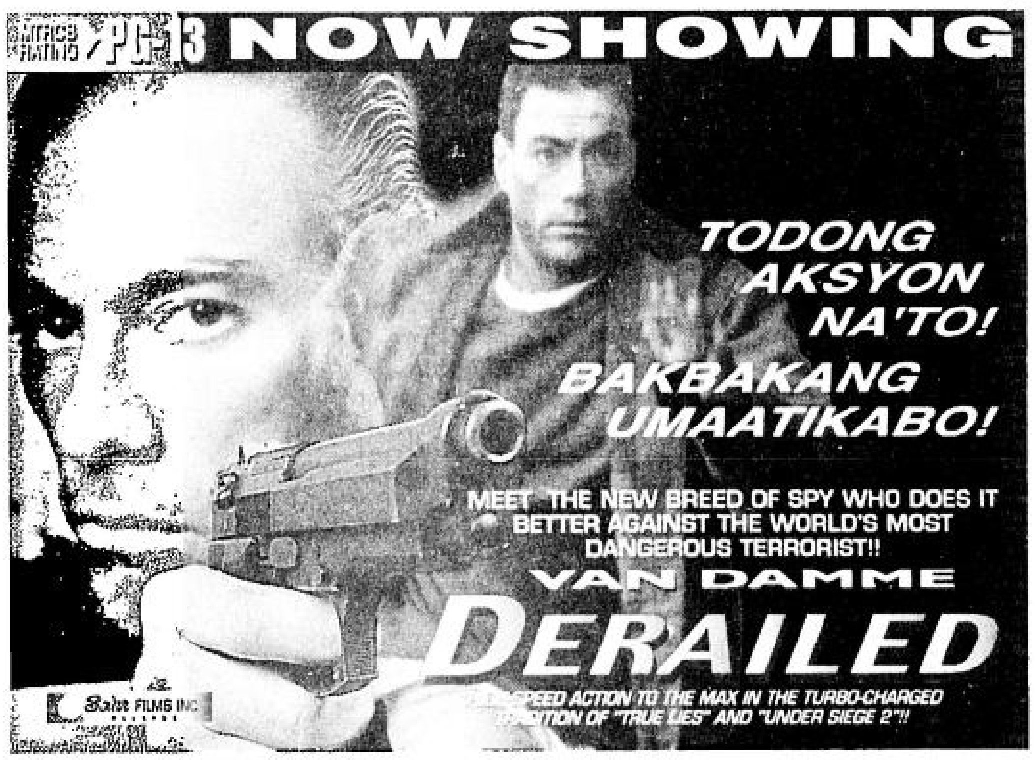

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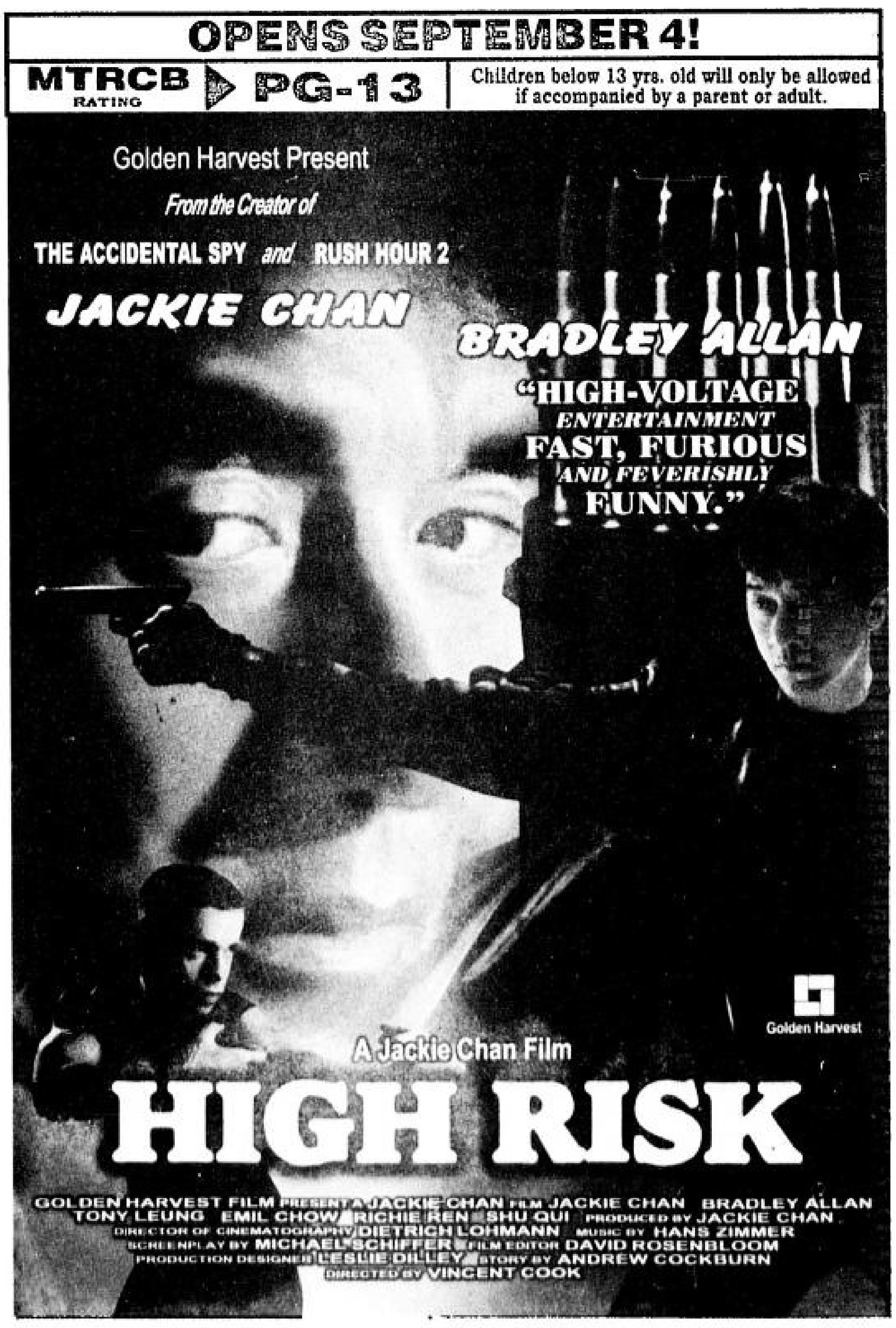

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'SIGNS'

The aliens among us

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

IF you're not looking for real signs, you just might enjoy this one.

M. Night Shymalan's "Signs" tells of yet another thwarted alien invasion of planet earth. Naturally, once they get over the scare, earthlings crack their heads together for a resounding defense, and prevail.

Movie Buddy thinks this is too simplistic an assessment of "a multi-level thesis." I maintain it is entertainment. Well-made, well-explained (in volumes of publicity write-ups), cleverly cast, but still entertainment.

This is enough validation for the filmmaker, although he needs little of that after the "Sixth Sense," the movie that altered Bruce Willis' thespic personality; and "Unbreakable," the movie that attempted to explore some more of Bruce Willis' new thespic personality.

Personally, I'm glad that Shyamalan's own sixth sense was unbreakable in the pursuit of actors Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix for the lead roles in "Signs."

Shyamalan is said to have been bowled over, since the "Lethal Weapon" series, by Gibson's "particular brand of ambivalent, suicidal angst." And of Phoenix, he has divined, "If he wanted to, he could be the biggest actor in the world." On both counts he is justified.

In any case, I was willing to wait for another, long-term effect, as calculated by M. Night. "Entertaining, before meaningful," is his established and declared approach to filmmaking. The amusement value of this one was immediately clear to me, expertly blended though it was with the other components: mounting suspense, pathos, faith, love, instinct, and thoughtful visuals (the director is known to storyboard every shot). That's seven ingredients, the exact number of spices in traditional Indian curry. Presumably, Shyamalan likes his curry as traditional as he is Indian.

CROP circles in the latest thriller from director M. Night Shyamalan. (Inset) Mel Gibson with child actor Rory Culkin.

Now, three days later, I still think "Signs" is fun and bright, but more and more I am protesting the film's premise that it is extra-terrestrials that are methodically obliterating mankind.

In the news, every blessed day, are the real signs, if you ask me: wars, global warming, sub-human living conditions, a wholesale breakdown of religious institutions and their attendant values. Each one gives birth to at least three more "signs."

Any child molested by his own parent has seen the most vicious alien imaginable.

The biggest and worst "crop. circles" are full-scale droughts.

"Crisis of faith" has been redefined countless times in recent months.

And these are from Mel Tiangco's "Frontpage" alone.

What about CNN and BBC, 9-11 and Afghanistan, the floods in China and Europe, unexplained plane and train crashes?

I think M. Night has gotten under my skin. This is the long-term effect he wanted all along!

He's really saying: all right, everybody, since we've propagated a worldwide culture of blaming, anyway, let's blame faceless, nameless, aliens from outer space for all our current miseries and ultimate fear of extinction.

Let's blame aliens for drugs, crimes, al-Qaida, child-sex markets, poverty, hunger, and all the politicians we love to hate.

And then when the final, definitive alien comes—only heaven knows what form it would take—then maybe we will all wake up, come together, and cram for our own survival.

Possibly, this is the movie's "meaningful" side of the reel. It is Shyamalan's great gift that he is able to serve it up gently, almost subtly, smothered with—aside from all the thrill he can pull out of his huge hat of cinematic treats—laughter and pure feelings.

Much of the laughter is sadly lost on an audience expecting no more than the super-scares and, maybe, a more spectacular rendition of the invader(s) than Sigourney Weaver's "Alien" and Arnold Schwarzenegger's "Predator."

But good, old reliable heart-tugs are hard to miss:

Distraught husband tries to carry on a conversation with dying wife pinned to a tree by a runaway pick-up truck. Father extends son's waning, labored breaths by re-acknowledging, if reluctantly, the God he has deserted. Brother brings agitated brother back to composure by verbalizing a high regard for him.

The movie magazine Premier reports that Shyamalan tested the film with a mixed audience of 50 people or so. "He felt like he'd hit his mark. He heard their screams and their laughter and saw their tears in all the right places."

I wonder what they're thinking now.

Shyamalan is a sorcerer.

Shyamalan is a shaman.

Shyamalan is an alien.

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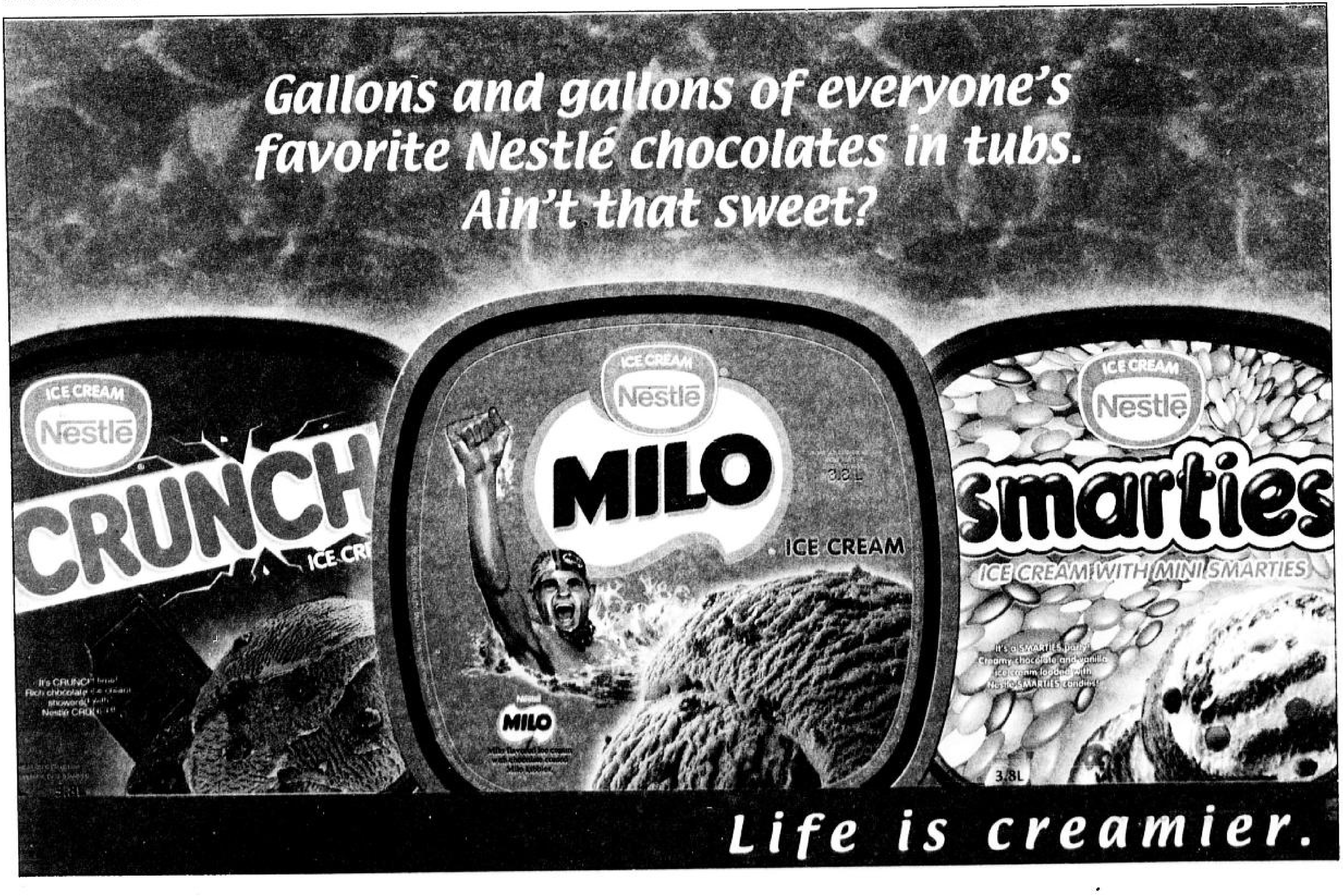

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RP losses due to tax leaks: ₱380B/yr.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is losing about $7.6 billion or P380 billion in potential tax revenues yearly because of widespread corruption, a complex tax system and inefficient revenue collection, according to the research unit of US-based investment bank Morgan Stanley.

Morgan Stanley Research said in a study dated Aug. 27 that based on "rough and conservative estimates," the country's tax leakage yearly was equivalent to 10 percent of its gross national product.

From 1965 to 2001, the Philippines lost $205 billion, which was enough to wipe out the country's foreign and domestic obligations worth about $110 billion as of end-2001 and even give it substantial surplus, Morgan Stanley's think tank said.

The study authored by Daniel Lian also noted that based on recent trends, the government's tax collections this year would fall to less than 10 percent of GNP, lower than last year's ratio of 12.7 percent. This year's GNP was projected to reach $79.7 billion.

Morgan Stanley Research said in its report that the Philippines, based on a system that slaps a 33-percent corporate tax, should be generating tax revenues equivalent to 25 percent of its GNP.

However, tax collections in the country never exceeded 20 percent of GNP even during the boom years of the Ramos administration. It said that tax collections even deteriorated from a high of 17.1 percent of the GNP in 1997 to less than 13 percent last year.

The country may even see its tax collection falling further to less than 10 percent of GNP for the first time this year, said the research agency in its report.

As of the first half, the tax collections-to-GNP ratio fell to 10.8 percent. As of July, the budget deficit reached P133 billion against a full-year target of P130 billion. The collection shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which generates 80 percent of the country's yearly revenues, reached about P35 billion as of July.

Given these trends, Morgan Stanley Research said investors in Philippine markets "will continue to be deprived of any magical performance" and that its optimism for neighboring Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia "does not extend to the Philippines."

It noted further that the lax fiscal effort of the government had inflicted tremendous costs to the economy, pushing the government to a chronic borrowing cycle that requires a large part of national resources to be allocated to debt-servicing yearly.

Of the annual budget, debt payments usually account for more than 30 percent.

Morgan Stanley Research said the estimated Philippine debt was already 138 percent of the projected GNP of $79.7 billion this year. Of this, the government debts account for about 66.5 percent of GNP.

"This is a heavy burden. As a result, the country has consistently registered the lowest savings and investment rates as well as growth rates in East Asia," the report noted.

Morgan Stanley Research said that while the restructuring efforts of the Macapagal administration had been appreciated by investors, the reforms particularly in raising the tax collection "had not yielded any tangible results."

Low inflation, modest interest rates and a competitive floating exchange rate will help the country afloat through rocky periods, said the research team.

Still, without an overhaul of the tax collection system as a prelude to a meaningful economic reform, Morgan Stanley Research said that the Philippines would continue its lackluster performance that started five decades ago.

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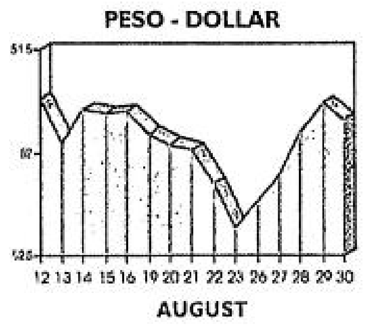

GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 30, 2002

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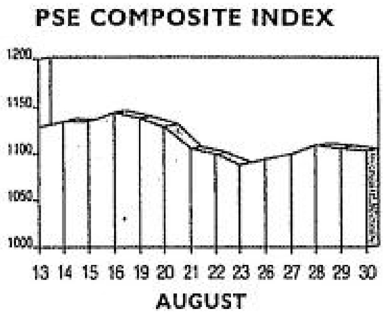
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 30, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen moving in tight range



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices are expected to move within a narrow range this week as investors look for positive news that may perk the market up, analysts said Friday.

"We're just seeing the market moving sideways," said Roberto Cano of BPI Securities, adding that "what we're waiting for is some new developments."

Investors were largely unimpressed by the announcement on Thursday that the Philippine economy expanded by a higher than expected 4.5 percent in the three months to June and by 4.1 percent in the first half of 2002.

"It's not that it is not good news but investors are still cautious. We need a series of good news to boost sentiment," Cano said.

"There is some overhang on the budget deficit," he added, referring to signs that the deficit for this year would not be within the P130-billion ceiling.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, however, managed to inch up by 16.1 points or by 1.5 percent over the week to close at 1,103.36 points.

Average daily volume during the week rose to 120.03 million shares worth P253.02 million from 102.4 million shares worth P209.1 million in the previous week.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market would likely

STOCKS/ B6

Co-ops' debt write-off OKd

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo had signed an executive order condoning some P18 billion in debts of electric cooperatives to the National Electrification Administration and other government agencies.

Perez said in a statement that the write-off meant that the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. would assume the cooperatives' debts as of June 26, 2001 when the power reform law took effect.

Section 60 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides for the condonation or write off of all outstanding financial obligations of electric cooperatives to the NEA and other government agencies, that were incurred to finance the government's rural electrification program.

In the six-page Executive Order No. 119 signed on Aug. 28, Ms Macapagal said the assumption of the debts "must come hand-in-hand with meaningful and lasting reforms, both mandated and self-imposed, among the electric cooperatives."

She said this was for the purpose of achieving reliable, secure and cheaper electricity for consumers, particularly those in the rural areas.

Perez said the consequent reduction of electricity rates in the rural areas would depend on the status of each cooperative.

The party-list Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives said it expected an average reduction of 44 centavos per kilowatt-hour in power rates nationwide if the coop-

CO-OPS/ B3

Carmaker hits tax system

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FORD Motor Co. Philippines Inc. has lambasted the country's automotive tax system as the most lopsided in Asia with seven out of 10 vehicles sold in the market exempted from excise taxes.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Ford Philippines president Henry Co said: "It's only in the Philippines where the government could tax only 30 percent of all vehicles sold. It's a ridiculous situation because this is a direct subsidy to the other 70 percent of vehicles that do not pay the excise tax."

Co said the government's tax rules have vir-

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Carmaker . . .

From page B1

tually exempted all commercial vehicles in the country—from pickup trucks to passengers vans to sport and Asian utility vehicles—from excise taxes leaving compact cars and luxury sedans shouldering the industry's tax load. Commercial vehicles accounted for 72 percent of the 46,135 units sold in the first seven months this year.

In the case of the local market's best seller, the AUVs, Co said other countries in the region such as Indonesia and Taiwan slap excise taxes on AUVs.

Ford has long advocated for the lifting of the tax exemption on AUVs considering that they had higher average selling price than passenger cars. Ford does not sell AUVs but its local product line includes the Ranger pickup and Expedition, and the Explorer SUVs that are exempted from the excise tax.

Co said the tax distortion in the government vehicle tax system was one of the reasons for its chronic budget deficit problems. He said that broadening the tax base to cover virtually all of the vehicles sold in the country should generate substantial revenues to the government.

The Congressional Planning and Budget Office warned that the budget deficit might balloon to P172 billion from this year's target of P130 billion due to weak tax collections.

Ford has been at the forefront of lobbying for the discontinuation of the tax exemptions while shifting the basis of the tax computation from the vehicle's engine size to its sticker price.

Based on the recent announcement by government officials, the new tax structure being mulled for the industry is 3 percent for vehicles worth below P601,000; 10 percent for P1 million and below; 25 percent for P1.5 million and below; 40 percent for P2 million and below; and 100 percent for more than P2 million.

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- Trends and Prospects in Global Franchising
- Growth of Franchising in Asia
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- Franchise Law and Strategies for Minimizing Legal Problems
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Sept. 26 (Thursday):
- Developing and Implementing an Effective Franchise Program
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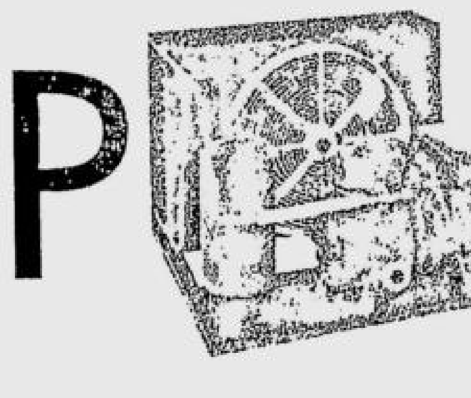

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Government unions are spoiled brats

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

IN my book, when employees refuse to work unless the employer gives in to their demands, that is a strike, pure and simple. But, I am told a strike nowadays is not always a strike. It may be a walkout, work interruption, work stoppage, peaceful assembly, protest action, demonstration, or what have you.

But for the purpose of this column, I will use the old-time word "strike." The strikes in government offices seem to be catching. First, it was at the SSS in August last year. In the past few months, there have been strikes at the GSIS, Pag-IBIG, the Department of Education, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Vitaliano Nañagas II lost his job at SSS, Raul Roco at DepEd, and Rene Bañez at BIR. At GSIS, Winston Garcia, unperturbed, is hanging on. The Pag-IBIG strike lasted only one lunch break.

What is the law on strikes by government employees? The Constitution recognizes the right of government employees to peaceful assembly to make known their complaints. The Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Supreme Court have given flesh to this provision.

PSC says a government employee must be at his assigned post during office hours, unless he is on official leave. He cannot leave his post during office hours to join a strike.

The Supreme Court has buttressed the PSC rule. In 1987, the union then existing at the SSS went on strike. The Supreme Court ruled the strike was not only illegal. Worse, it was unconditional. Government employees can seek redress for their complaints in some other prescribed way, but not through a strike.

Government employees on strike may be

GOVERNMENT/ B6

Japan tightens import rules on farm products

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINES is in danger of losing some $200 million to $300 million in earnings from agricultural exports to Japan if local farm products entering that market will be found containing high level of chemical and pesticide residues.

The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo issued this warning in a memorandum addressed to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

Joseph Z. Sison of the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo advised the Department of Agriculture of the recent amendments to Japan's Food Sanitation Law.

"Under the amended law, the Japanese authorities will issue a total country ban (on agriculture exports) if they'll find even a single shipment of farm products containing excessive pesticide and/or chemical residues," Sison said.

JAPAN/ B8

Co-ops

From page B1

eratives' debts were written off.

But Perez said: "The reduction on the rates will still require the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission and is anticipated to take several months to implement."

EO 119 requires the following for the debts to be condoned:

- Each loan must be acknowledged by the electric cooperative, recorded in the books of NEA or the creditor government agency, and validated by the Commission on Audit;
- the loans should be audited and verified by PSALM;
- the reduction in power rates due to savings from the write off should have ERC approval;
- an electric cooperative must be current in the payment of its obligations to the National Power Corp. and if not, should present to NEA an agreement with Napocor on the manner of payment;
- an electric cooperative should always comply with all NEA policies governing electric cooperatives;
- a cooperative should cooperate with NEA for NEA to effectively prepare it for a deregulated environment; and
- a cooperative should submit a performance improve plan and/or a rehabilitation and efficiency plan.

In a telephone interview, Apec Rep. Ernesto Pablo said his group welcomed the much-awaited order.

"But we are saddened with all these requirements," Pablo told the INQUIRER. "These are not in accordance with the letter and intent of the Epira."

Pablo also criticized Section 5 of the order, which provided for the revocation of the debt relief if an electric cooperative failed to continually comply with the conditions within five years of PSALM's assumption of the debts.

He said he expected to meet this week with the general managers of the electric cooperatives to consult with them about the executive order.

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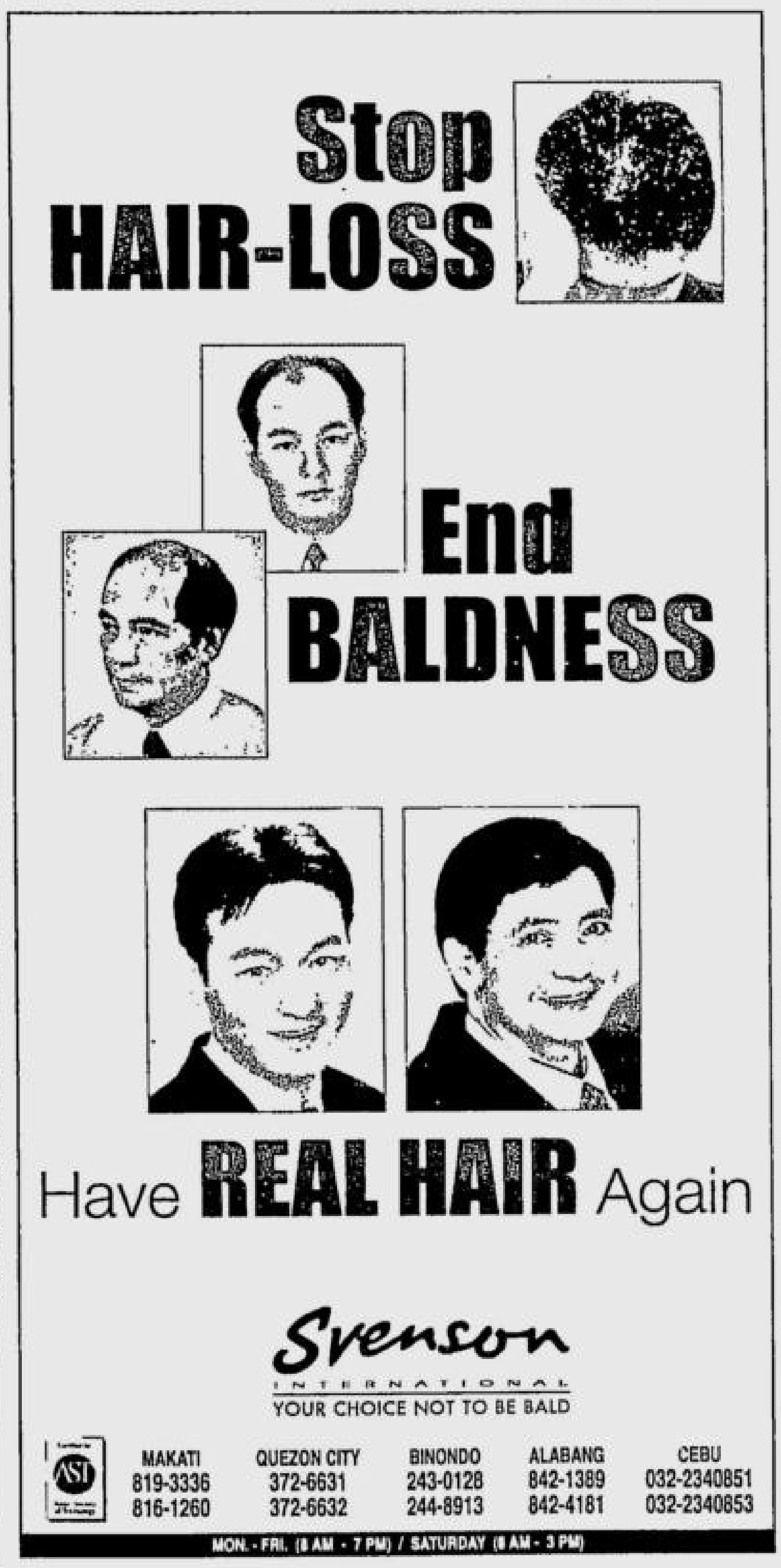
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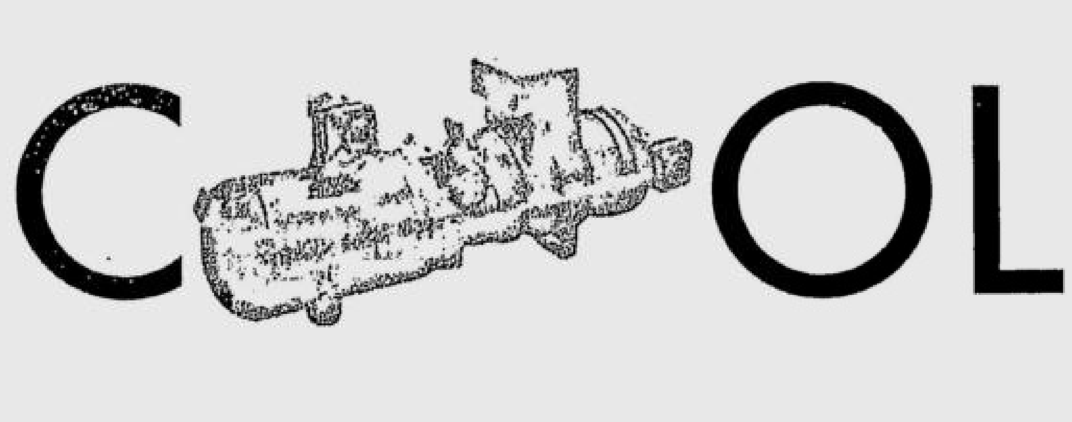

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Pagcor expects to close 'Entertainment City' deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-RUN Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. is set to close a contract with big foreign investors on the development of a $15-billion Entertainment City in Roxas Boulevard as soon as Congress approves the gaming firm's petition for a fresh corporate mandate beyond 2008.

In an interview, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino said the mammoth deal, which was being worked out since last year, was nearly completed but the extension of Pagcor's charter would have to be approved first before the formal signing could take place.

"That's the only thing that our investors are waiting for. They will not invest without a guarantee that Pagcor's charter will be extended, as development of the project alone will already take seven years," Genuino said.

The ambitious project covering a 120-hectare reclaimed property along Roxas Boulevard, which can be extended by another 30 hectares, was expected to be finalized last year or early this year.

Although an agreement with the investors has already been reached in principle, Genuino said the deal could not be closed unless Pagcor was assured of a new mandate after its corporate life ends in 2008.

Genuino also said that Pagcor had shelved plans to borrow money to buy the land from the Public Estates Authority.

He said there would be a presidential proclamation that would cede the management of the property to Pagcor, which afterward will pay PEA on a staggered basis. Pagcor will then lease the property to the foreign investors who will implement the development of Entertainment City. The project will be a "Las Vegas and Disneyland" rolled into one, he added.

Genuino said Pagcor was working to address potential legal kinks that could arise from the project, which he estimated could bring in P200 billion in initial investments to the country.

"What is important is that the investors are willing and able to do the project," he said.

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DAY 1. Sept. 4, 2002 – Wednesday
- Central Grease Separators
Session 1 (2 30-4 00 PM) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Edelstahl Asia - Philippines
- Preparing Pasta The Barilla Way
Session 2 (2 30-4.00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Consumables Corporation
- Flexible Packaging Solution
Session 3 (4 00-5 30 PM) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Clearpack Philippines, Inc
- Introduction of New Product Lines
Session 3-B (4 00-5 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Philippine Foodservice Equipment & Supplies Corporation

DAY 2: Sept. 5, 2002 – Thursday
- Franchise 101: Franchise Relations & Legal Issues
Session 4 (9 00-5.00 PM) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc
- Processed Meat Production with Modern Equipments
Session 5 (10.30-12 00 NN) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Handyware Philippines, Inc
- Flavored Juice Production and Packaging
Session 6 (1 00-2 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Handyware Philippines, Inc
- Safeguarding Your Brand Through HACCP and Its Application To Plant Lubrication
Session 7 (2 30-4 00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp
- Middleby Marshall Conveyor Ovens Product Presentation
Session 8 (4 00-5 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Middleby Worldwide Phils., Inc
- Hot Fill vs. Aseptic Fill Technology
Session 9 (5 30-7 00 PM) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Clearpack Philippines, Inc.
- Metal Detection & Check Weighing: State of the Art in the Food Beverage Industry
Session 10 (5 30-7 00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Addtech Sales & Services, Inc

DAY 3: Sept. 6, 2002 – Friday
- Franchise 102: Investing In A Franchise
Session 11 (9 00-5 00 PM) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc
- Survivor 2002: Biomass Technology
Session 12 (10.30-12 00 NN) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Enertech Systems Industries
- Bringing Quality Back To The Food Service Industry
Session 13 (1 00-2 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by KLG International, Inc
- Product Presentation & Business Opportunity - For Food Industries
Session 14 (2 30-4 00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Eagle-Wings International Corp
- Euro-Grill Gas Rotisserie Product Presentation
Session 15 (4 00-5 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Middleby Worldwide Phils., Inc
- Practical Applications For Butter Cheese & Cream
Session 16 (5 30-7 00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by New Zealand Milk Philippines

DAY 4: Sept. 7, 2002 – Saturday
- Franchise 103: Growing Your Business Through Franchising
Session 17 (9 00-12 00 NN) Seminar Room 1
Presented by Association of Filipino Franchisers, Inc.
- Mega Profits In Beverage Industry
Session 18 (10 30-12 00 NN) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Allegro Beverage Corporation
- Angel Cake Formulations
Session 19 (1 00-2 30 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Pilmico-Mauri Foods Corporation
- Coffee/Torani Syrup Use: Total Ultimate Foods (Special Gourmet Mixes)
Session 20 (2 30-4 00 PM) Seminar Room 2
Presented by Equilibrium Intertrade Network

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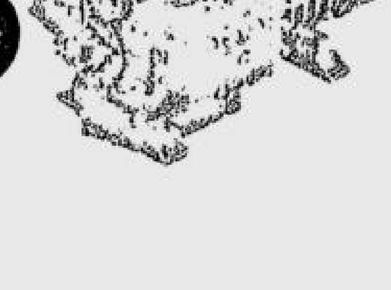

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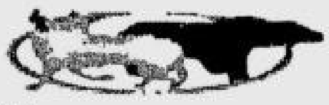
Long term vs short term

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

A NUMBER of readers have written to me asking for an explanation of terms used by companies in explaining their accounts. Although no longer a fundamental analyst, I will do my best to explain them.

Ebitda—Extraordinary, blatant, incredible, terribly, deceitful accounting.

PER—Profits entered recklessly

NAV—Not always valid

EPS—Expected prison sentence

Income Tax—Declared, but not paid to the BIR

CEO—Cheating exemplary officer

Vice President—In charge of distributing shabu

PEG—Profit engineered genetically

Plant and Machinery—A flower pot on a sewing machine

Here are a few cleaned up limericks:

There was a young lady of Norway
Who hung by her toes in a doorway.
She said to her beau:
"Just look at me, Joe,
I think I've discovered one more way."

* * *

An old maid in the land of Aloha
Got wrapped in the coils of a boa.
And as the snake squeezed,
The old maid, not displeased,
Cried: "Darling, I love it. Samoa."

* * *

An accident really uncanny
Befell a respectable granny;
She sat down in a chair
While her false teeth were there,
And bit herself right in the fanny.

The week before last was dreadful. The market went down every single day and the Phisix fell 56 points, back to its previous low. Last Monday was memorable because turnover fell to its lowest level since the arrival of Magellan. It was less than $1.5 million or 1 million pounds. Way back in the '70s, I used to receive bigger orders than that from private clients. In fact, orders that small were either given to the janitor or the lady who made the tea.

On Tuesday, turnover improved a little, but on Wednesday, it jumped to P467 million. Even excluding cross sales, it was still over P300 million. I could not figure out what was going on until I discovered next day that the GDP figures, due to be released at 10 a.m. on Thursday, were already known on Wednesday to the Dow Jones news service and a lot of traders as well. The leak must have come from Neda and I suggest that they be exiled to the NEDALANDS. If the government wants to investigate insider trading, they should look at their own departments. In England, the only people allowed to have inside information are surgeons studying X-rays before performing an operation.

This week, I would like to discuss the merits of short-term trading as opposed to long-term investment. When I first started in the London stock market, way back in 1952, I was told only to invest in government bonds, as equities were too dangerous. At that time, bonds yielded about 4 percent, whereas stocks such as Imperial Chemical Industries, the largest manufacturer in Europe, gave a yield of 8 percent, with the dividend covered three times. Great Universal Stores, a highly successful mail order company with superb catalogues, offered a return of 10 percent, with the dividend covered 2.5 times. Over the next 20 years, bonds lost value while equities doubled, tripled and quadrupled. That myth was shattered forever.

The other thing I learned was, invest long term and you can't go wrong. Well, in 1976, when the Arabs formed Opec and raised the price of oil from $4 to $30 a barrel, the First World countries were devastated. Even in England, where we have a stable financial system going back 200 years, the inflation rate soared to 30 percent and the government had to issue bonds with a 15.5-percent coupon and a 30-year life. The holders of Consol 2.5-percent irredeemable bonds lost 84 percent of their nominal value, but in real terms, they lost far more. As for equities, after a fantastic rise, they fell 70 percent.

As for long-term investment, anyone who got into the Nasdaq at the top saw Yahoo crash 95 percent from $250 to $12.50 over a two-year period, while many other companies went bankrupt. If you had entered the local market on Jan. 9, 1997, when the Phisix was 3,640, you would now be losing 70 percent of your capital, much more if you take inflation into account. As for Japan, back in 1989, the Nikkei was almost 40,000. Now, 13 years later, the index is down 75 percent at 9,567 and the outlook is depressing. Do you still believe in long-term investment? I don't.

Eventually, I learned to understand that everything in the universe moves in cycles, and I devoted myself exclusively to learning how to understand the nature of these cycles, even though they never repeat exactly. In time, I became a successful trader and wrote the 10 commandments, a copy of which I sent to Moses.

Now, as far as I am concerned, long term is one month, intermediate is one week, and short term, a few days. And it works. I can now disclose that my mystery BUY was FPH at P12.75 cum a 20-percent stock dividend. This is equivalent to P10.60 in its current form; the present price is P13.25, with three foreign brokers buying all the stock. The next resistance level is P15.75, but most of my subscribers were happy to sell at the P13 resistance level, and take a 20-percent profit. Those who stayed in will make more if they are prepared to hold six months, and take the risk that BPC will not do anything to harm the company.

As I am 72, and my health is a source of concern, I decided to start a newsletter last February in order to promote awareness of technical analysis. The number of subscribers is quite small, so my relationship with them tends to be personal. Over the past six months, I have spent most of my time keeping them out of the market, except for FLI at P1.04, cum the 85-percent stock dividend, and FPH. But as soon as the market hits bottom, I will email or telephone them whenever I have a strong BUY, so that they don't have to wait until the next day.

There are other services, both cheaper, but I have 50 years experience and I think that counts for something. I intend to keep the service small and personal, so when the market perks up, I will not accept any more applicants unless someone drops out. Alternatively, I will double the subscription and employ an assistant. Existing subscribers will not be affected and will always have priority. I just hope I am still around when the recovery comes. I just called Lucio Tan and told him that I cannot wait 100 years.

As always, you can reach me, mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Stocks seen moving . . .

From page B1

see some follow-through buying this week, although it might not gather enough steam to break the next resistance level pegged at 1,150 points.

Roxas said the market could take its cue from positive leads arising from the expected passage of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) law as well as the international roadshow to be conducted next week by the government and the private sector.

The roadshow was conceptualized to drum up investor interest in the local stock market among institutional buyers and foreign fund managers.

He also said the market should also cheer the end August, which was described as "a month-long Halloween" as the market was haunted by jitters from stock market volatility abroad.

ATR Kim Eng Securities, on the other hand, said in a report that trading this week would likely remain listless especially as concerns were raised that Congress might not work double time to pass crucial economic bills, including the SPAV bill.

"Unless Congress passes an acceptable SPAV bill, its accompanying bills—Asset Securitization bill, the Rationalization of the Documentary stamp tax on secondary market trading bill and the corporate recovery bill—and the Transco Franchise Bill, there would be no catalysts to spark an economic and financial activity. The market would continue to drift in limbo," ATR Kim Eng Securities said.

On the other hand, Michael Ricafort, chief market strategist of Equitable PCI Bank, said that sentiment on the Philippine financial markets was generally better due to the better-than-expected economic growth numbers announced last week and the absence of negative news.

2tradeasia.com said that disregarding domestic political noises, the prevailing benign inflation and low-interest rate environment should be positive indicators that could support improved consumer spending.

The online trading group also noted that market barometers have already been stretched near historic lows, which should signal renewed buying.

"This situation has also limited prospective sellers' willingness to exit at current market prices, which partly explains the kind of momentum supporting the market lately," it said, noting that the market might stay range-bound this week. ***Reports from Doris C. Dumlao and AFP***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	19	18.25	19	355,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	42.5	43.5	312,200
China Banking Corp.	610	620	610	620	140
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28.5	28	28	334,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35	34	34	346,800
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	6,480
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	8,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	60,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1170	1180	1170	1180	900
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	915	900	900	750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	490	490	485	485	260
Ipeople Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	2,500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	292.5	292.5	285	285	102,910
Ivantage Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	5,000
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	30	30	47,300
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.64	1.64	675,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	9,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	210,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	25,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	529,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	20,000
RFM Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	49	174,700
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	52.5	52	52	147,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	51,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	530,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	4,474,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	3,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.16	380,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.235	2,490,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	342,100
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	85,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	31,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	5,500,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.24	450,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.185	0.15	0.185	140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	80,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	2,310,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	2,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.15	110,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	22,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,464,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	8,093,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	599,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	120,000
SM Development Corp.	0.93	0.99	0.93	0.99	600,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	180,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,700,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	250,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	70,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	14,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,000,000

CURRENCIES

Aug. 30, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.015228	1.000000	51.8090
Japan	Yen	0.008590	0.008461	0.4384
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572386	1.548800	80.2418
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130159	0.128207	6.6423
Switzerland	Franc	0.679491	0.669299	34.6757
Canada	Dollar	0.651748	0.641972	33.2599
Singapore	Dollar	0.580163	0.571461	29.6068
Australia	Dollar	0.559478	0.551086	28.5512
Bahrain	Dinar	2.693199	2.652801	137.4390
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270721	0.266660	13.8154
Brunei	Dollar	0.578807	0.570125	29.5376
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024063	0.023702	1.2280
UAE	Dirham	0.276425	0.272279	14.1065
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000837	0.0434
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.985000	51.0319
Argentina	Real	0.282008	0.277778	14.3914
Brazil	Real	0.324251	0.319387	16.5471
Denmark	Kroner	0.134612	0.132593	6.8695
India	Rupee	0.020958	0.020644	1.0695
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267201	0.263193	13.6358
Mexico	New Peso	0.102466	0.100929	5.2290
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475027	0.467902	24.2415
Norway	Kroner	0.135223	0.133195	6.9007
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017149	0.016892	0.8752
South Africa	Rand	0.095518	0.094085	4.9552
Sweden	Kroner	0.109114	0.107477	5.5683
Syria	Pound	0.022969	0.022624	1.1721
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029790	0.029343	1.5202
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000724	0.000713	0.0369

Government unions are spoiled brats

From page B3

guilty of gross neglect in the performance of duty or conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service. The punishment is a maximum of six months' suspension without pay. If the strikers clearly wreak financial damage to the government, the strikers can be guilty of grave misconduct. This leads to outright dismissal and forfeiture of all benefits. They can only be rehired in the government after a full presidential pardon.

Why is the law so harsh on government strikers? Because government work is absolutely essential to the operations of a government. Imagine if our soldiers, sailors and airmen were to go on strike.

When the complaint is about the management style of their bosses, as were the cases against Nañagas, Roco, Bañez and Garcia, the government unions are acting like spoiled, onion-skinned brats. If the unionists do not like the way things are being run, they should look for employment somewhere else. Imagine if the Army does not like the management style of the next chief of staff (assuming General Cimatu's term is not extended). Do our soldiers have the right to stay in the barracks?

The strikes at GSIS, Pag-IBIG, DepEd and BIR seemed to have stayed within the limits allowed by law. The SSS strike was something else. The strike was mounted round-the-clock during the working days of Aug. 1 and 2 of last year. It was staged inside the premises of the SSS. I have never seen management executives and union leaders conspiring to strike against their common employer.

It should be the employer who should file the complaint against illegal strikers. But six months after the SSS strike, the management had made no move to file suit. The Philippine Association of Retired Person (PARP), the largest nationwide group of SSS and GSIS retirees, was forced to file the complaint at the Ombudsman last January. In April, the Ombudsman agreed to transfer the case to the SSS commission. Two hearings before a three-man committee have been conducted since then. So, now, we are seeing a spectacle where PARP, which should never have been in the picture at all, is trying to prove its case before the SSS commission, which should have been the complainant in the first place.

But, in the topsy-turvy world at the SSS, I am supremely confident that the rule of law will, in the end, prevail.

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ALABANG "B"	1,650,000	BAGUIO CC	700,000
BAGUIO CC	720,000	CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	CAPITOL HILLS	100,000
CAPITOL HILLS	110,000	CC AT TAGAYTAY	400,000
CASINO ESPAÑOL	250,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	170,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	FONTANA "C"	Call now
MANILA POLO	2,750,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	11,000,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	640,000	MANILA POLO	2,600,000
MLA STHWOODS "B"	650,000	MLA STHWOODS "B"	Call now
MONTEMAR (INDIV)	40,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	800,000
ORCHARD GCC "A"	Call now	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now	VALLEY GOLF	250,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,850,000	WACK-WACK GOLF	6,675,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	830,000		

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MANILA GOLF	400,000	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	65,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
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2	Calatagan Golf Club "B"	80,000.00	-
3	Canlubang Golf Club	700,000.00	please call
4	Capitol Hills Golf Club	100,000.00	please call
5	Caliraya Spring	-	please call
6	Celebrity Sports Club	-	170,000.00
7	Country Club at Tagaytay	420,000.00	-
8	Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	500,000.00	
9	Eastridge Golf Club	200,000.00	
10	Fontana "C"	70,000.00	-
11	Manila Golf Club (Ind.)	-	10,000,000.00
12	Manila Golf Club (Corp.)	please call	11,000,000.00
13	Manila Polo Club	-	2,600,000.00
14	Metro Club	100,000.00	-
15	Mimosa (Ind.)	125,000.00	-
16	Mt. Malarayat "A"	350,000.00	
17	Montemar Beach Club	30,000.00	-
18	Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	please call
19	Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	please call
20	Pueblo De Oro	400,000.00	-
21	Philippine Columbian Association	80,000.00	
22	Puerto Azul Beach Club "A"	100,000.00	
23	Punta Fuego	650,000.00	
24	Quezon City Sports Club	200,000.00	
25	Riviera Golf Club "A"	180,000.00	
26	Riviera Golf Club "B"	200,000.00	
27	Royale Tagaytay "B"	110,000.00	
28	Sherwood Hills "A"	80,000.00	-
29	Sherwood Hills "B"	160,000.00	please call
30	SPA & Lodge	800,000.00	-
31	Sta. Elena Golf Club	please call	1,600,000.00
32	Subic Yacht Club (Ind.)	200,000.00	please call
33	Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club	-	840,000.00
34	Valle Verde Country Club	-	140,000.00
35	Valley Golf Club	please call	200,000.00
36	Wack Wack Golf & Country	6,775,000.00	please call
37	Others	please call	

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GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 2, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	1,700,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	Please Call	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Eastridge "B"	140,000	-
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	290,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,450,000	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	700,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,750,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,625,000	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	-
Valley Golf	300,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mt. Malarayat	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Mimosa Golf	25,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
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Bangko Sentral plans to relax rules on bankers

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to relax its policy prohibiting bank executives from holding two distinct positions in different but affiliated banks.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that the policy-making Monetary Board might lift this rule within the year. The move, he said, was aimed at allowing closer monitoring and improved operations of affiliated banks.

Earlier, the BSP barred ranking bank officers, particularly presidents and CEOs, from holding another position even in affiliated banks since the jobs in both financial institutions normally require full-time attention.

"We are planning to relax this policy on condition that the entities involved are the parent company and a subsidiary that is at least 51-percent owned by the former," said Reyes.

Reyes said that with the lifting of the prohibition, the monitoring and operations of both units were seen to improve especially now that the BSP has been pushing banks to improve their corporate governance standards.

The monetary authorities, said Reyes, might allow even bank presidents or chief executive officers to hold concurrent positions in affiliate banks. He said lower ranking officers, including corporate secretaries and auditors, would be among the first to be covered by the lifting of the rule.

Reyes added that the Monetary Board, in a circular approved last week, had asked banks to apply "safe and sound" practices in approving new loans and other credit applications.

In particular, the board said that banks must ascertain whether the loan availed of by an individual or group was used for the intended purpose.

"During the boom years, banks granted loans indiscriminately and that is why we have this huge problem on non-performing loans. Credit was approved without regard as to whether the borrower needed the loan and whether it was used for the declared purpose," said Reyes.

As of June, the banks' bad loans slightly declined to 18.06 percent of their total loan portfolio but this was still much higher from about 12 percent before the 1997 Asian crisis.

Reyes said in a circular to be issued this week that banks should ensure that loans granted were really needed for the completion of the project to be financed.

"In other words, banks must not grant loans that would be more than the amount required," he added.

CDC board defers decision on SM mall project in Clark

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Clark Development Corp. has agreed to put on hold for up to two months its decision on the proposed construction of a shopping mall at the gate of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

A source from the board said the two-month reprieve would give CDC directors more time to determine the best location for an SM shopping mall in Clark after the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) opposed the proposed site at the Salakot entrance near MacArthur Highway.

The deferment averted a showdown between the CDC management and the BCDA as the approval of the proposed SM shopping mall project at the Salakot entrance was up for approval in Friday's meeting.

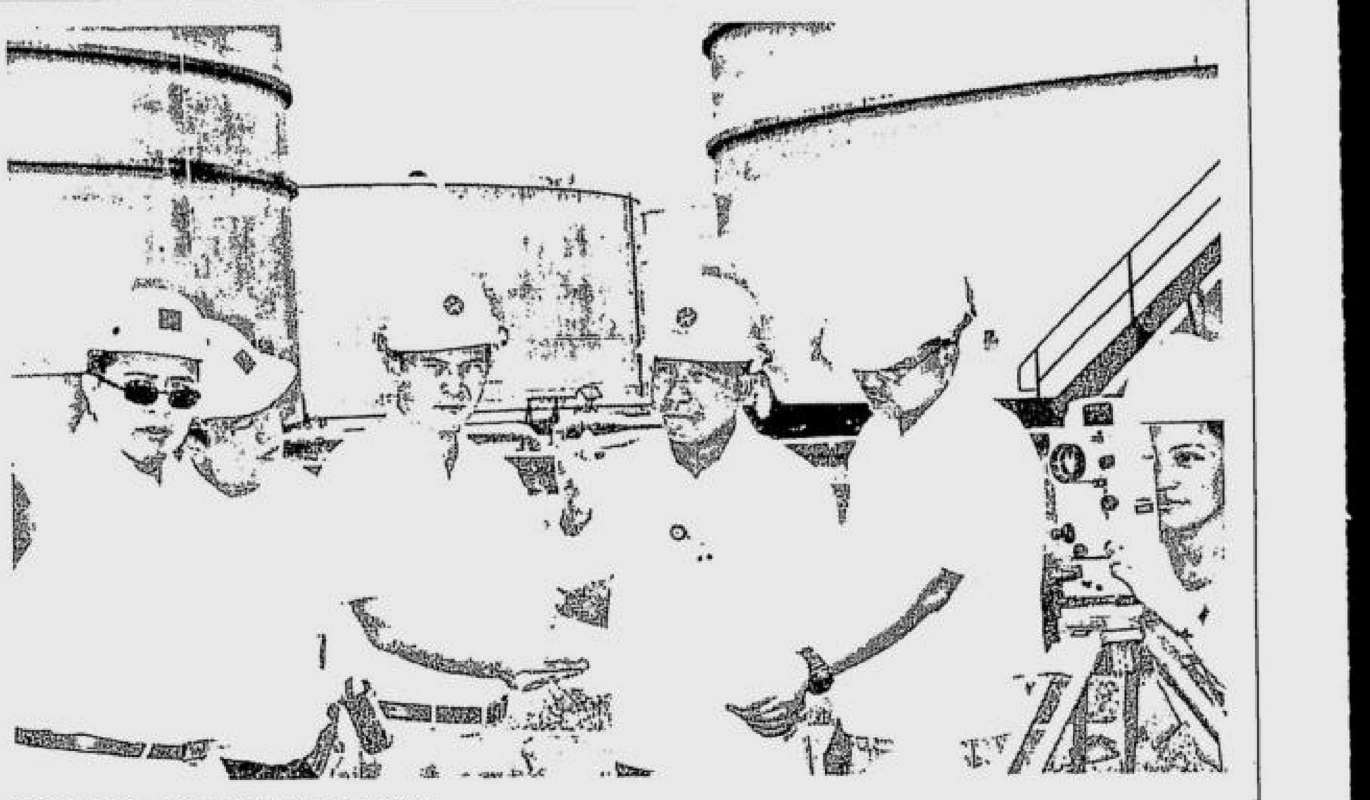
Both CDC chair Rizalino Navarro and CDC president Emmanuel Angeles had endorsed the project for approval while BCDA president and CEO Rufo Colayco had opposed the mall's location. Colayco had pushed for a deferment of the approval of the project to give all board members more time to study the project's long-term impact on Clark and the Central Luzon economic corridor. Colayco sits on the CDC board and he was the first to invite SM to put up a mall in Clark.

CDC is the operating and implementing arm of the BCDA in the management of the Clark ecozone. Under Executive Order No. 62, which contained the guidelines for its creation, the BCDA has been tasked to adopt and implement an effective oversight mechanism to encourage efficient utilization of scarce government resources and to ensure that plans and programs of subsidiaries (such as CDC) and ecozones are proceeding according to national goals and objectives.

Colayco had questioned the undue haste and the changes made in the proposed lease contract (the lease area was increased from 12.5 hectares to 16 ha in the amended draft) that could have serious implications on the government's broader goal of creating a Central Luzon economic corridor with the integration of Clark's airport and Subic's seaport.

The BCDA had opposed the Salakot entrance site because it would aggravate the heavy traffic in one of Luzon's main artery for commuter and cargo transport, pre-empt the design of the planned multi-modal logistics center that would be built east of the airport runway and compromise the layout of the critical access facilities to the airport from Subic, Metro Manila (including North Rail), Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

As an alternative site of an SM mall, Colayco proposed the Centennial Expo (9 kilometers from the Salakot entrance) where CDC could open Clark to public transport with the construction of a by-pass loop to meet the retailing giant's requirement.



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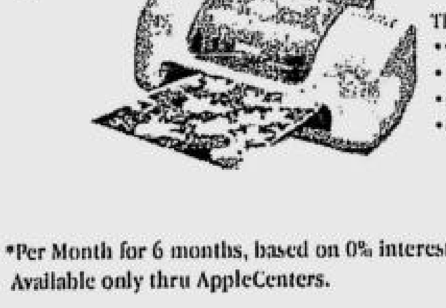
Officials of Caltex Philippines Inc., Pilipinas Shell and Petron Corp. survey the area for the proposed safety buffer and green zones in compliance with the memorandum of understanding they entered into with the Department of Energy and the Manila City government on the scale down of the Pandacan Terminal. Conducting the survey are (from left) Petron terminal manager Peter Paul V. Shotwell and superintendent Edwin C. Martin; Caltex communications officer Jorge T. Marco and operating assistant Roque B. Biocos Jr., and Shell's supply and distribution head Luis V. Gonzales.



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FATF wants RP anti-dirty money law amended by June next year

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINES may have only up to June 2003 to amend the Anti-Money Laundering Act to comply with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force or face sanctions that may be imposed by the global dirty money watchdog, a well-placed government official said.

Officially, the FATF has given the Philippine government no definite deadline to amend the Amla but there were talks reaching government officials that the Paris-based anti-money laundering group wanted to see the amendments done before end-June next year, the source said.

In a report last June, the FATF retained the Philippines in the list of countries deemed uncooperative in the global fight against money laundering.

The FATF said that the Philippines must amend the Amla by lowering the threshold level for reporting of covered transactions and easing the strict bank secrecy laws, which prevents regulators from looking into bank accounts.

Other jurisdictions in the FATF list are: Cook Islands, Dominica, Egypt, Granada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Nauru, Nigeria, Niue, Russia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Ukraine.

"Should those countries or territories identified as uncooperative maintain their detrimental rules and practices despite having been encouraged to make certain reforms, FATF members would need to consider the adoption of countermeasures against these jurisdictions," the FATF said.

The FATF is composed of 29 of the world's richest and developed nations.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council, composed of the heads of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission, has recommended to Congress amendments to the Amla in line with the wishes of the FATF.

Tariff reduction plans feared to result in massive layoffs

THE GOVERNMENT'S tariff reduction programs have elicited further opposition from various labor groups. This time, a group of major labor organizations in the country has warned of restiveness in the labor sector should the programs push through in 2003 and 2004.

The tariff reduction programs under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT) and the most-favored nation (MFN) agreements will be fully implemented by Jan. 1, 2003 and in 2004, respectively. Both will reduce tariffs on all imports from zero to 5 percent.

In a joint statement submitted to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, workers from 15 labor groups, including five of the country's top labor centers representing 1.5 million organized workers, stressed the possible devastating effects the tariff reduction programs would bring to the labor sector.

"These programs will cause massive dislocations due to mass scale closures and slowdowns of local industries whose products will be swamped away by the flood of imports," the statement said.

It added that other "collateral damages to labor include the decline of real wages, threat to job security, virtual stagnation and deterioration of labor standards, and the astronomical growth of the already huge army of the unemployed."

They demanded a stop of the implementation of the Afta-CEPT and MFN tariff reduction program for distressed key local industries and the reversion of the MFN tariffs to pre-2001 levels. They also asked for effective and adequate safety nets for labor affected by dislocations caused by unbridled tariff reductions.

The labor statement was signed by five major labor centers, namely the National Confederation of Labor (NCL), Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL), Lakas Manggagawa Labor Center (LMLC), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), and the Federation of Free Workers (FFW).

Vehicle industry program readied

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is finalizing the comprehensive program for the Philippine motor vehicle industry that includes three major components: imported used vehicle regulation, Most Favored Nation tariff revision, and excise tax rationalization.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the department was just tying the loose ends after working closely with the Department of Finance on these issues. The industry program will soon be presented to the Cabinet, Roxas said.

"We have to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of an industry with total investments of close to P70 billion and direct employment of about 40,000 people," Roxas said. At present there are 14 car, 20 commercial vehicle and 20 motorcycle assemblers in the country. Another 256 companies are involved in manufacturing automotive parts, including parts made of metal, rubber, plastics, glass, as well as electronic and electrical auto parts.

Aside from increasing the country's exports of auto parts, the government is also trying to attract a second global vehicle manufacturer that can export completely built units. The country exports yearly about $1 billion worth of auto parts, that include wiring harness, transmissions, allow wheels, tires, brakes and clutches, radiators and batteries.

"We can only achieve this if we will adopt reforms that are comprehensive instead of solving the industry's problems on a piece-meal basis," he said.

Japan tightens import . . .

From page B3

The Philippines currently exports to Japan some $200 million to $300 million worth of fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly bananas and pineapples.

In the same memorandum, Sison advised the agriculture department to inform all concerned bureaus and exporters of Japan's amended law.

He said the Bureau of Plant Industry should be made aware of this so that proper monitoring procedures could be strictly carried out.

Gov't aiming to cut debt ratio to avoid Latin America stigma

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MACAPAGAL administration is aiming to cut the national government's debt stock as a ratio to gross domestic product from over 60 percent to 40 percent to avoid being lumped by global investors in the same basket as the debt-ridden economies of Latin America.

In an interview, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the government's economic team had seen the need to lower the government's debts by avoiding further deficit spending just to boost investor confidence.

In nominal terms, the national government's outstanding debts stood at over P2.5 trillion, or 63.3 percent of GDP, as of July this year. Some P1.27 trillion consisted of domestic debts, while around P1.23 trillion were foreign debts.

In 2001, the country's actual debt stock stood at about P2.27 trillion.

"That's large compared to (the ratio of) our Asean neighbors reaching only 30 to 40 percent at this point," Canlas said.

Combined with the outstanding liabilities of other public sector entities like government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions, the Philippines' total public debt ratio is estimated at over 90 percent, which most foreign investors say should be addressed.

The acceptable level of public debt ratio to GDP—the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy—stands at 50 to 60 percent for developing countries.

Canlas said the liabilities of the national government alone could be brought down to 40 percent of GDP by the end of this administration's term.

This was the reason why the fiscal deficit cap this year was being maintained against all odds, he explained.

He said the ratio surged under the Estrada administration from 35 to 38 percent under the Aquino and Ramos administrations because of the loose deficit-spending strategy adopted by former President Joseph Estrada.

"It's a concern because, looking at the turmoil that's happening in Latin America—in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay—when investors and fund managers look at the macro indicators, the first thing they look at is the state of public finances, so that's the ratio of public debt to GDP," Canlas said.

"So, if you get lumped with the Latin American countries, the recommendation of the fund managers, as well as investment bankers, is usually to underweight a country which has a large ratio of public debt to GDP because it is viewed as a high credit risk," he said.

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Cebu Pac not advocating open skies

By Abigail L. Ho

CEBU Pacific Air has clarified that it was not an "open-skies" advocate, contrary to earlier reports that it was supporting an open-skies agreement between the Philippines and the United States.

"Cebu Pacific does not advocate open skies," Cebu Pacific vice president Peggy Vera said in a letter sent to news organizations on Saturday.

The airline, a company under a group controlled by taipan John Gokongwei Jr., supports the current government policy of "progressive liberalization" as spelled out in Executive Order 219, she said.

Under this policy, traffic rights-routes, capacity and frequency are bilaterally negotiated between two countries based on the principles of national interest and reciprocity, with an exchange of equal or equivalent realizable value for each party.

Vera said statements sent out by a group outside Cebu Pacific apparently "blended" the airline's positions on the proposed open-skies policy and the renegotiation of an air agreement between Manila and Washington.

"These are two separate issues that somehow, in recent forums and articles, seem to have blended together, with one confused with the other," she said.

"The issue of the RP-US agreement is not a question of an open-skies policy," she stressed.

A memorandum of agreement between the Philippines and the United States is set to expire next year. It specifies a gradual buildup to an entitlement of 36 flights a week for both US and Philippine carriers.

When this agreement expires, both sides will then be able to operate any number of frequencies but still within the agreed parameters of points, traffic rights and designated carriers.

Philippine carriers currently operate 22 frequencies while US carriers have 14.

With the agreement coming into force in October 2003, no new routings are given, no new traffic rights are granted, no new cities are specified: not behind, intermediate or beyond. Whatever is in the main agreement remains unchanged.

"Cebu Pacific does not have any objections to the provisions of the MOU and believes that letting it expire in September 2003 is of no real consequence. We believe that ultimately, market forces will continue to be the determinant of the frequencies operated by the carrier, and based on past experience, there seems to be little risk that the removal of the capacity ceilings with the MOU expiry will result in a flooding of capacity by any carrier," Vera clarified.

BOC adds 28 new products to 'negative list' of imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BUREAU of Customs has come up with new policies aimed at curbing the smuggling of commodities like pork, beef, poultry, milk, sugar, shoes and apparel.

According to the Federation of Philippine Industries, the customs bureau has issued an administrative order adding 28 products to its "negative list of importable materials through customs-bonded warehouses."

The new products include frozen pork, beef, poultry, milk preparations, footwear and select garments.

The FPI said the new order was issued to check the rampant use of customs-bonded warehouses to smuggle goods into the country.

Traders are allowed to import raw materials and semi-processed items at zero duty using customs-bonded warehouses on condition that these are re-exported.

Local industries have been asking the government for years to check abuses by unscrupulous exporters who import more than twice their raw material and semi-processed goods through their custom bonded warehouses.

Some duty-free imports are being diverted out of these warehouses for sale to the domestic market, with the perpetrators shipping out empty or half-filled containers and using fake documents to cover their tracks.

The BOC and the Sugar Regulatory Administration also issued a joint order imposing more rigid rules on the movement of local and imported sugar and the disposition of abandoned or forfeited sugar.

The new policy requires SRA clearance for the release of sugar imports to importers or their consignees.

It will also limit the disposition of abandoned or forfeited sugar through a public auction only to qualified bidders.

Sugar is one of the most highly smuggled commodities in the country.

The customs bureau has stepped up its campaign against smuggling to address the growing complaints of businessmen on unfair competition posed by smuggled goods and to boost revenues in the face of a widening budget deficit.

LTO contractor to issue bonds, prepares for IPO

A COMPANY with a P3.4-billion contract from the Land Transportation Office said Friday that it would issue P1.2 billion worth of bonds and was considering offering the shares of its parent firm to the public.

In an interview, Stradcom chief financial officer Raul Pagdanganan said Stradcom's parent firm, Stradcom International Holdings Inc., would likely be the entity that would be listed in the local stock market.

"But we have to test the market first, which is why we're going into the bond market before doing an IPO. It's good to develop a bond market on our way to an IPO in no more than three years," Pagdanganan said.

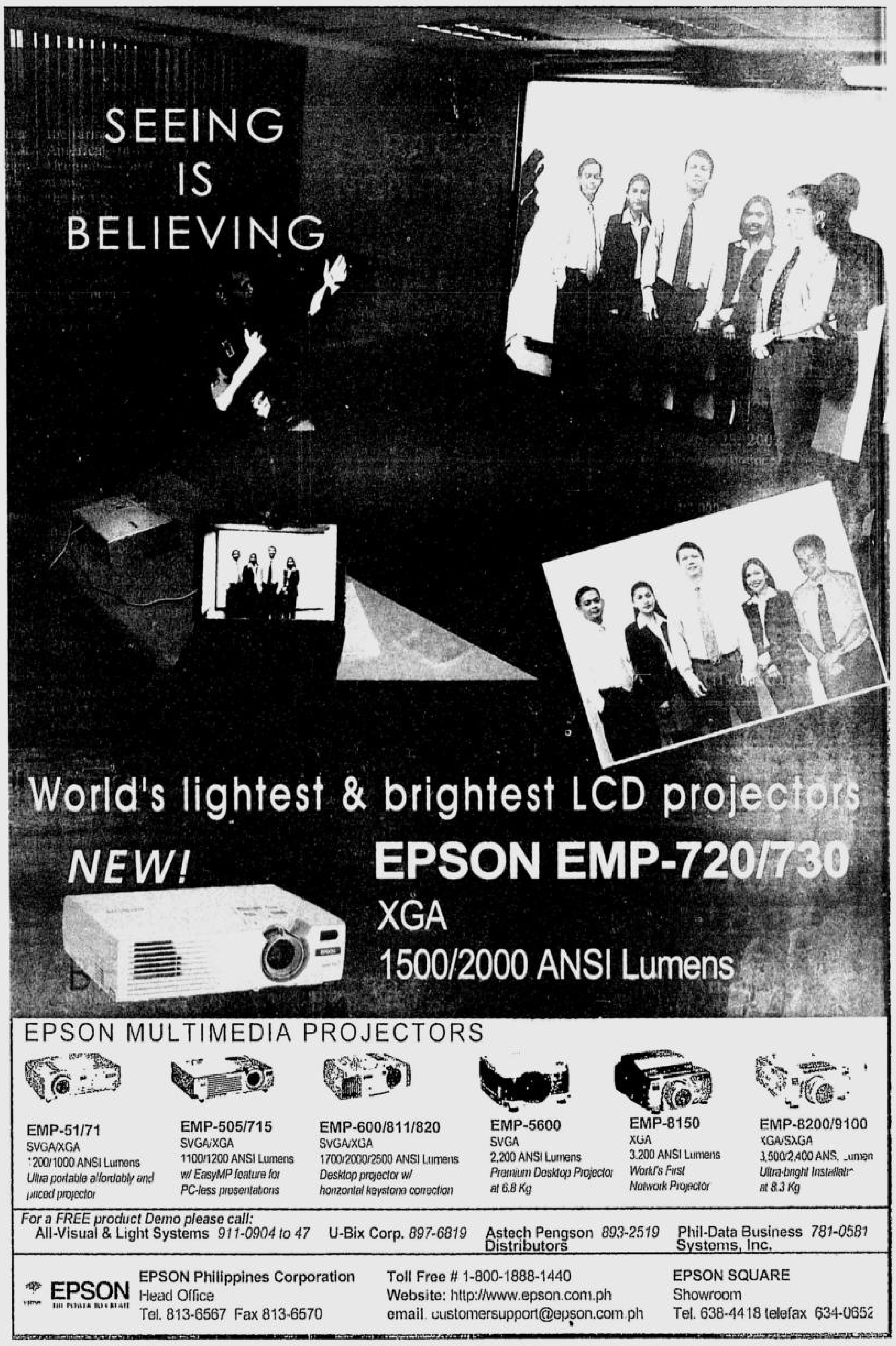
Stradcom, which won a contract to fully computerize the LTO's systems for P3.4 billion, said earlier that it was set to secure a P1.9-billion loan facility from the World Bank, technology firm Unisys Corp. and three local banks.

The World Bank will extend some $12 million to Stradcom, while Unisys will provide around $10 million in loan.

The local lenders, meanwhile, will account for some P820 million. These are the Philippine Bank of Communications, which will extend P355 million; Development Bank of the Philippines, P350 million; and, the Export and Industry Bank, P115 million.

Stradcom failed to meet its target to complete the LTO's computerization project by the end of last year because of insufficient funding and systems inadequacy.

Pagdanganan said Stradcom was currently focusing on securing new loans to complete its project with the LTO. *Abigail L. Ho*



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DOF asks Congress to defer anew 10% VAT on banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has asked Congress to approve two proposals deferring the imposition of the 10-percent value-added tax and rationalizing taxes on offshore banking units.

These measures are part of six legislative reforms that the finance department is seeking from Congress.

Apart from the VAT and OBU measures, finance officials are also asking Congress to pass laws that will allow the government to use inflation as a gauge in determining taxes on beer and tobacco, lift the documentary stamp tax on secondary trading, restructure automotive excise taxes and establish the Internal Revenue Management Authority.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters that the DOF had asked Congress to consider refinements in the current 5-percent gross receipts tax imposed on banks and to defer anew the imposition of a 10-percent VAT on banks set to start on Jan. 1 next year.

Government has already deferred the implementation of the 10-percent VAT on banks three times since the measure was approved in 1998.

The finance department is seeking a fourth deferment to bring down costs that banks pass on to borrowers in the form of higher lending charges or lower interests on savings.

The DOF is also asking Congress to rationalize taxes on the remittances of offshore banking and foreign currency deposit units.

The country's biggest association of bankers has asked the Macapagal administration to clarify its policies on taxes levied on the earnings being remitted by foreign banks operating here to their parent companies abroad.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines said the government should come up with a clear stand on the issue following the Court of Tax Appeals' recent decision to slap a 10-percent tax on the income that foreign banks were remitting.

The Court of Tax Appeals decided in March that the earnings being remitted by the local unit of Dutch lender ING Bank was subject to a 10-percent tax.

This ruling will make the local operations of foreign banks less viable, BAP president Cesar Virata, chief executive of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., has warned.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has supported the BAP's position on the issue.

Under the General Banking Act of 2000, offshore banking units, as well as transactions of non-residents made through foreign currency deposit units, are exempted from any form of taxes.

Confronted with a gaping budget deficit, the government has been considering an increase in the taxes levied on OBUs and FCDUs.

"This is something the government has to review because it will have serious implications to the financial sector. We have to make sure that the laws are consistent with the intent, and I don't think the intention at this time is to drive them away," Buenaventura said in a separate interview.

"FCDUs and OBUs have been a major source of financing. During times of crisis, they have provided us with a form of secondary reserves," he added.

He explained that these sources included deposits and savings of overseas Filipino workers, which had made the country's dollar deposits relatively more stable than those of other countries in the region.

NESTLÉ volunteers cleaning up a 900-meter mountain in Lipa City, Batangas

Makulot gets Nestlé clean-up

WHY would volunteers from the Nestlé factory in Lipa City and the local Red Cross chapter climb a rugged 900-meter mountain on a weekend?

Good question. But that's exactly what a group of 18 Nestlé Lipa employees and members of the Batangas chapter of the Philippine National Red Cross did recently. They braved an arduous, lung-bursting trek up and down Mt. Makulot, which straddles the towns of Cuenca, Ibabao, Labac, Dita, Putol and San Felipe in Batangas.

Their self-imposed mission: to pick up garbage left by other trekkers on the mountain path. Mt. Makulot, a scenic backdrop to the Nestlé factory in Lipa, is a favorite site for mountain trekkers in the area. Unfortunately, they leave trash behind. True enough, the Nestlé and Red Cross volunteers picked up some 40 sacks of trash from the trail during their expedition.

Progressive corporations recognize that a long-term commitment to promoting the quality and sustainability of the environment is a key element of corporate responsibility and their success. Therefore, it's no coincidence that Nestlé Philippines, one of the country's top 10 corporations with six factories and almost 4,000 employees, integrates the conceal of environmental responsibility in its daily operations.

From the Nestlé Center head offices at Rockwell in Makati to the company's factories in Pulilan, Quezon City, Cabuyao, Lipa, Cagayan de Oro and Marikina, employees implement a range of programs and activities, including those that they think up themselves, like the clean-up of Mt. Makulot: to protect the environment.

Nestlé's commitment to sound environmental practices and preservation is embodied in a framework called the Nestlé Environmental Management System, which integrates all environmental efforts found in the various aspects of its business operations.

An environmental task force, reporting to the company's full-time environmental manager, is formed in each work site to ensure that the commitment to environmental responsibility is sustained, and to implement related projects involving employees and nearby communities. These projects include planting forests and implementing proper solid waste management systems.

Edwin Ramilo, safety and environment officer of Nestlé Lipa who organized the mountain clean-up, said after the grueling activity: "We hope that people who visit Mt. Makulot will learn not to throw garbage out there, so we can preserve the beauty of this mountain. It is easy to degrade the environment, but hard to rebuild and nurture it. We can all make a difference in our own way. After all, protecting the environment is investing in the future."

RP boycott by int'l publishers looms

THE PHILIPPINE market has practically been abandoned by the international publishing community due to the unchecked escalation of copyright piracy in the country.

This was disclosed by leading intellectual property rights lawyer Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes law firm, who said the international publishers of scientific, technical and medical textbooks had appealed to the government to stop the menace of copyright piracy involving the rampant illegal reproduction and sale of the said materials.

The publishers also asked the government to investigate reports that academic personnel and even some schools might be involved in the illegal practice.

Reyes said the international publishing community "has long been seriously concerned over the apparent lack of resolve on the part of authorities to put an end to the menace."

The country has been ranked "second worst territory for publishers" who lose an average of $70 million to textbook pirates every year.

Reyes said Filipino students, especially those taking up engineering and medicine, were among the "worst victims of this menace" since they no longer had access to updated editions of textbooks in these fields. "There is practically a silent boycott of the Philippine market by the international publishing community, so newer editions will no longer be available locally," Reyes explained.

The menace also contributed to the inclusion of the Philippines in the priority watchlist of notorious intellectual property rights violators in the world last year.

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SPAV OK seen paving way for $4B in investments

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PASSAGE of the special purpose asset vehicle bill will likely pave the way for $2 billion to $4 billion in investments into the Philippines.

In an interview, Dale Strickland of accounting firm Ernst & Young said foreign investors wanted the SPAV bill passed into law "sooner rather than later."

Ernst & Young and local affiliate Punongbayan & Araullo are advising government firms on how to dispose of a P40-billion mortgage portfolio.

The SPAV bill now pending in Congress provides tax breaks and other incentives to encourage banks and other financial institutions to get rid of their bad loans and acquired assets through special purpose asset vehicles or asset management companies.

Strickland, who has been in touch with a number of foreign investors, said there has been concerns over some provisions of the bill that do not fully clarify the rights of creditors.

As long as the Philippine system fails to provide certainty to investors on how their investments will be handled, these investors will be wary of coming to the Philippines, Strickland explained.

He stressed, however, that the approval of the SPAV bill soon was very important because the high level of capital and interest among foreign groups to invest in the Philippines and other Asian countries might dwindle and flow to the United States instead in the next two to three years.

The US economy could weaken further and create opportunities for investors to take up large nonperforming loans or assets in that country, he explained.

Several large investment banks and international funds have expressed keen interest in acquiring portions of the NHMFC's P40-billion mortgage loan portfolio.

NHMFC president Angelico Salud said GE Capital, Goldman Sachs, Landlease of Australia, Lehman Brothers and two other groups asked the NHMFC and P&A Ernst & Young how they could acquire portions of the NHMFC's portfolio.

According to Ernst & Young's Dale Strickland, Merrill Lynch and Lonestar Fund were also interested in acquiring these assets.

Cerberus Capital Management LP has also reportedly informed the government of its interest in the NHMFC's portfolio.

Cerberus earlier cut its planned investments in the Philippines by $500 million, diverting the money instead to Thailand amid delays in the approval of a law granting incentives to "special purpose asset vehicles."

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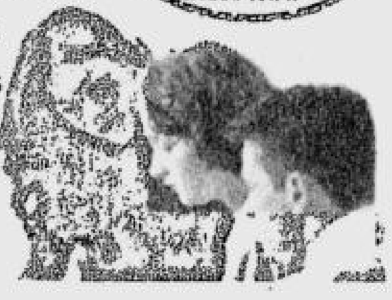

Prudentialife: Securing the good life for the Filipino family

The pre-need industry has changed since the first pre-need plan was offered 38 years ago. The market has grown and become more demanding. The way of doing business has evolved and competition has introduced innovative ways of selling such as relational marketing, mall marketing, telemarketing, and online marketing. Hence, the challenge to every pre-need company is how to extend its reach to the growing market.

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As for Prudentialife, change has also taken place within the organization. The new leadership ushers a new page in the colorful history of the company from a life plan marketing firm in 1978 to an integrated financial services organization in 2002.

Over the years, Prudentialife has expanded its range of services by creating several affiliate companies in the areas of financial services, memorialization, travel and leisure, real estate, and information technology.

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WorldCom ex-CEO made over $11M off Salomon IPOs

WASHINGTON—Top current and former WorldCom Inc. executives scored millions of dollars from hot initial public offerings made available to them by Salomon Smith Barney and its predecessor companies, records released on Friday by the US House Financial Services Committee showed.

Bernard Ebbers, the former chief executive of WorldCom, made some $11.1 million from 21 IPOs, including $4.56 million off the sale of Metromedia Fiber Network shares and almost $2 million from rival Qwest Communications International Inc. shares, according to the documents.

"This is an example of how insiders were able to game the system at the expense of the average investor," Rep. Michael Oxley, chair of the committee and an Ohio Republican, said in a statement. "It raises policy questions about the fairness of the process that brings new listings to the markets."

The committee released the documents almost immediately after receiving the information it had subpoenaed from Salomon Smith Barney, a unit of Citigroup Inc., the second subpoena issued in its investigation into whether the company offered IPO shares to win investment banking business.

In the late 1990s through early 2000, technology IPOs were almost guaranteed to soar in the open market, meaning those investors who were able to buy shares at the offering prices would likely haul in large, risk-free gains. *Reuters*

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Andersen reaches Enron deal

LONDON—Andersen Worldwide, the umbrella of the fallen accountancy giant's international offices, confirmed on Friday that it would pay nearly $60 million to creditors, employees and shareholders of bankrupt energy trader Enron Corp.

The US partnership Arthur Andersen LLP was not part of the two settlements, which would effectively shield the other global offices from litigation connected to Enron's collapse, Andersen Worldwide said in statements issued in London.

"By reaching settlements with the plaintiffs, Andersen Worldwide and its present and former member firms are not admitting any fault or that they would be proper defendants in litigation brought by Enron," the Geneva-based umbrella office of the accountancy firm said.

Andersen's Houston office was Enron's auditor when the energy trader imploded because of dodgy accounting.

The US-based partnership of Andersen was found guilty of obstructing justice in an Enron-related case, which effectively destroyed one of the accounting profession's "Big Five" firms.

The settlements are a step forward in Andersen Worldwide's efforts to wipe its slate clean of outstanding legal entanglements as it disbands its web of member firms, most of which have defected to rivals in recent months.

One settlement obliges Andersen to pay $19.95 million to a settlement fund for the Enron bankruptcy estate, which would mainly benefit the firm's creditors.

The other obliges it to pay $40 million to Enron shareholders and employees, who have sued charging Andersen's audits wiped out their investments and savings.

"Upon court approval of the settlement, the plaintiffs will release Andersen Worldwide SC and all of its present and former member firms and their partners and employees, with the exception of the entity Arthur Andersen LLP and its partners, from any and all present and future claims relating to Enron," Andersen said. *Reuters*

Greenspan speech checked for housing views

NEW YORK—Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan said nothing at all about the US housing market on Friday, but some analysts saw a veiled message about how the Fed would cope with a real estate bubble in his comments.

Some economists suggested the Fed chief's speech to an annual symposium of top global central bankers, although focused on the last bubble in the US economy, were perhaps aimed at those who believed a new bubble was emerging in real estate.

"The entire subtext here is directed at housing prices," former New York Fed director of research Steve Cecchetti said of the Fed chairman's remarks at an annual symposium of top global central bankers.

"I think the problem now is (the Fed is) coming under pressure because of housing prices," he said, adding that the jury is still out on whether the surge in residential housing prices constitutes an unsustainable bubble.

Greenspan's speech defended the Fed's lack of action during the stock market boom and bust of the 1990s, saying it is not a central bank's job to identify or try to combat emerging bubbles.

The bursting of the stock market bubble wiped out trillions of dollars in wealth and shook Americans' faith in Wall Street. *Reuters*

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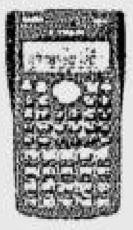

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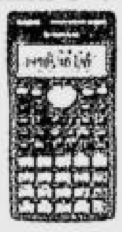

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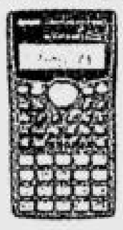

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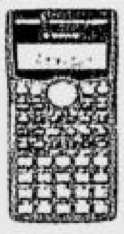

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Japan has 'used up' expansion policies, BOJ deputy says

JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming—A senior official from the Bank of Japan said on Friday that his country's policymakers have about exhausted conventional policy tools in a bid to pep up the moribund economy.

Yutaka Yamaguchi, deputy governor of the Bank of Japan, was addressing the annual symposium for central bankers sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, whose topic this year was on how best to use interest-rate policy and fiscal policies like tax changes to stabilize the economy.

"We have practically used up all our options," Yamaguchi said, referring to orthodox policies during a presentation to the invitation-only crowd at the Rocky Mountain resort town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Earlier, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan told the audience that it was extremely difficult to recognize "bubbles"—unsustainable asset price rises—before they burst and said the US central bank could not have punctured a US stock market bubble in the late 1990s without risking a recession by pushing interest rates too high.

Japan has had to deal with bubbles in both its real estate markets during the 1980s and in its stock market, which peaked in 1989 about the time the Bank of Japan began boosting interest rates. Japan's economy, the world's second largest, has essentially been mired throughout the 1990s and remains so.

Japan is keeping official interest rates effectively at zero and it has been pumping money into financial markets in a policy called "quantitative easing" to try to end price deflation and get its economy on track.

"We have witnessed time and again that after asset inflation has developed into a major bubble it is impossible to soft-land," Yamaguchi said. In such a situation, the capacity of monetary policy to affect the economy's direction is "severely impaired" and may only delay "the inevitable adjustment of asset prices" to economic fundamentals, Yamaguchi said. *Reuters*

Nestlé talks down Hershey price

ZURICH—Nestlé kept talking down a possible bid price for Hershey on Friday, a move welcomed by investors who feared the world's biggest food group may overpay for the US chocolate maker and cultural icon.

Chief executive Peter Brabeck rejected talk Nestlé would pay $12 billion to gorge itself on the maker of Hershey's Kisses and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups to reach pole position in the US confectionery market, the world's largest.

Nestlé shares, which had lost almost 10 percent in a little over a week amid frenzied speculation about a bid for Hershey, rose 4.7 percent to 322 Swiss francs, bettering Swiss blue chips and European sector rivals.

Brabeck tried to rein in market talk of a $12 billion offer in an interview in Friday's Wall Street Journal.

"What I don't understand is why everyone believes I would spend $12 billion. If you just think it through, I don't think you would spend $12 billion," Brabeck said.

Analysts took his comments as a signal that Nestlé was interested in Hershey but would drive a hard bargain.

"They are interested in lowering the price which is good news as I was skeptical about them paying any price," said Patrik Schwendimann, Zuercher Kantonalbank analyst.

Nestlé is a weak No. 3 in the US market behind Hershey and M&Ms maker Mars Inc. Analysts say a Nestlé swoop was logical given Hershey's better margins, potential synergies, and Nestlé's goal to be No. 1 or two in every business.

"Suddenly the market leader in a given country is being talked about as potentially for sale, how could we not take an interest? It makes perfect sense," Nestlé spokesman Francois Perroud told Reuters. *Reuters*

JAPANESE businessmen pass by a brokerage house in Tokyo as share prices are illuminated on the display above them. Japan's sputtering economy barely emerged from 12 months of contraction to eke out 0.5 percent growth in the April-June quarter and the government warned that growth will merely remain flat for the rest of the year. AP

Saudi set to push through Opec oil output increase

LONDON—Saudi Arabia looks set to face down Opec price hawks and push through an oil supply increase at next month's cartel meeting to prevent a politically damaging spike in crude prices this winter.

Cartel insiders and oil analysts said Riyadh is shaping up to lift output quotas at the Sept. 19 gathering in Osaka, Japan, to meet extra fourth quarter demand.

Riyadh wants to stop oil prices running out of control and stunting fragile world economic growth at a time when it is trying to repair diplomatic relations with the United States.

"Given the atmosphere in Washington at the moment I don't think Saudi Arabia is willing to take price risks," said analyst Roger Diwan of Petroleum Finance Company in Washington.

Approaching the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US, blamed mostly on Saudi nationals, Riyadh won't want to anger the biggest buyer of its crude by letting others in Opec force prices too high.

"If Saudi goes for too small an increase, prices will overshoot and they'll be in more trouble politically with the US," said Diwan.

"Clearly the Saudi relationship has been strained since 9/11. Saudi Arabia wants to keep some kind of positive relationship with Washington, diplomatically if not publicly," said Kyle Cooper of Salomon Smith Barney in Houston.

US crude was trading at $28.90 a barrel on Friday, pricing a basket of Opec crudes near $26.50, near the top end of the group's $22-$28 target range.

The kingdom will have to twist arms among fellow producers to convince them more oil is needed to stop crude breaching the dangerous $30-a-barrel barrier.

The Saudi camp declined comment but sources said that signs are that it sees room to raise output quotas by something like a million barrels per day (bpd).

Venezuela, Kuwait and Indonesia oppose any increase, arguing that current supplies are sufficient. And an Opec delegate said this week that No. 2 cartel producer Iran also sees no need for more oil.

Cash-strapped producers like Venezuela and Nigeria now suffering budget crises don't want to trigger a price fall that would hurt export revenues.

They say the threat of US military action against Opec member Iraq that pumps crude under UN supervision are to blame for current high prices.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez last week made the Saudi task more difficult by announcing in public that he was against easing restrictions.

"The rest of Opec doesn't want to risk lower prices but Saudi doesn't want to risk a political backlash," said Diwan.

Reuters

Mixed signals on US economy to continue weighing on Wall Street

NEW YORK—If Wall Street hoped for solid evidence this past week of an unfaltering economic recovery, it was disappointed.

Durable good orders gained, but consumer confidence tumbled. The gross domestic product grew, but so did jobless claims.

Responding to such mixed indicators, the market fluctuated before ultimately breaking a five-week winning streak. Analysts say the volatility might offer a shaky prognosis for September and beyond, as the economy continues to send confusing signals about its turnaround.

"Investors are disappointed there is no clear indication of growth," said Tracy Herrick, chief investment strategist at Jefferies & Co. "But it takes time. I think that we will have to wait until at least October."

For certain, other factors contributed to the week's selling. Investors were looking to cash in profits after five straight weeks of gains. Light pre-holiday trading in advance of Labor Day contributed to price swings.

But analysts say the week's economic reports failed to reassure investors about the strength of the recovery. And that helped give trading a more negative tone than Wall Street saw in the first part of August.

On Tuesday, a Commerce Department report showed an 8.7-percent surge in durable good orders in July. But a sharp drop in consumer confidence in August overshadowed the news, pushing blue chips down 130 points.

On Thursday, investors were discouraged by an unexpected rise in jobless claims, but also relieved that a figure showing slow growth in the gross domestic product wasn't revised downward. After a bumpy day, the Dow Jones industrials ended down 23 points.

Friday brought another mixed batch of numbers, including an upbeat report on manufacturing in the Midwest but also news of stagnant personal incomes. Stocks fell, and so the Dow and the Standard & Poors 500 broke five straight weeks of gains. The Nasdaq composite index ended a three-week advance.

The Dow and Nasdaq also posted their fifth straight monthly decline, unenviable distinctions not seen since September 1981 for blue chips and May 1984 for tech stocks.

Still, since its July 23 closing low of 7,702.34, the Dow is up about 1,000 points, an indication that the market's overall tone has improved.

Analysts don't expect September to provide any greater clarity on the economy, although a fresh batch of statistics will start flowing in right after Labor Day.

"There's still a good deal of volatility in the economy," said Sherry Cooper, global economic strategist for Harris Bank of Chicago. "One thing that's unsettling is the apparent deterioration in the labor market. The fear is that layoff announcements will continue."

Analysts also question whether the market will have some reaction to the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Tensions with Iraq might also make for an uncertain month.

AP

US consumers keep on spending despite anxieties

NEW YORK—US consumers, undaunted by their nagging anxiety about the economy, shelled out money for autos and other goods at the fastest pace in nine months in July even as incomes stalled.

Meanwhile a key gauge of Midwest manufacturing from the National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago rose more than expected in August to 54.9, partly reversing a sharp drop in July. The index posted its seventh straight month of growth, soothing fears of a sharp pull-back in the sector.

All together, Friday's data pointed to an economy struggling to get to full speed but unlikely to slip back into recession as some economists feared just a month ago.

Jim Glassman, senior US economist at J.P. Morgan Chase, said if a national manufacturing survey also bounces back when it is released next week, "all those worries about a double-dip recession have to be set aside."

The Institute of Supply Management's August survey on US manufacturing is due on Tuesday and is considered critical for the economic outlook after it also posted a shock fall in July.

Other data this week showed record new home sales and a big jump in durable goods orders but still rising jobless claims.

"This week's news is suggesting final demand is doing pretty well this summer. The only thing that's missing from this picture is job growth," said Glassman.

The US Department of Commerce said personal spending surged 1.0 percent in July despite plunging confidence on big stock market losses and corporate scandals. It was the biggest gain since October, beating forecasts and coming in at double the 0.5-percent rise the prior month.

A 3.7 percent advance in spending on durable goods drove the gain, mostly on the back of stronger auto sales spurred by zero-percent financing and other incentives.

The big rise in July spending meant consumption growth in the third quarter could run as high as 4 percent to 5 percent, well above the miserly 1.9 percent of the second quarter. If so, it could ensure overall economic growth picks up smartly to around 3 percent from 1.1 percent the quarter before.

The spending binge came even while consumer sentiment fell for a third straight month. The University of Michigan August index slipped to 87.6 from 88.1 a month earlier.

The final August current conditions index edged lower to 98.5 from 99.3 in July and a mid-month reading of 100.2, while the expectations index, which tracks attitudes about the 12 months ahead, slipped to 80.6 in August from 81.0 in July but was above the preliminary reading of 80.0.

Reuters

Google hires CFO, sees growth

NEW YORK—Google, which has become the standard for searching the Internet, said it hired a chief financial officer, filling a key vacancy in the three-and-a-half-year-old company's management team.

The company hired George Reyes, 48, a former financial officer at Sun Microsystems Inc.

At Sun, Reyes worked next to Google chief executive Eric Schmidt, who was then the chief technology officer.

In a brief telephone conversation, Reyes said he'd been working for Google for two weeks, though wouldn't elaborate on his first priorities with the company.

Market watchers have been waiting for Google to fill the post because it was seen as a hurdle to listing its shares on a stock exchange. Since being created by two Stanford students in 1998—founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin—Google has swiftly grown to become one of the world's most used search engines.

Spokesman David Krane said the company has no immediate plans to launch an initial public offering.

Google stands out because it's one of the few Internet companies that's quickly become profitable. The company hasn't released its financial statements, but says it has earned profits for six consecutive quarters.

In an era of failed technology ventures, Google seems to be a sure thing for its backers. California venture capital funds Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and Sequoia Capital led a $25 million financing round in June of 1999. Other investors include Stanford University and Andy Bechtolsheim, a cofounder of Sun Microsystems.

Reyes, a native Cuban who came to the US at age 3, worked at Sun for 14 years. He left Sun as vice president and treasurer to become interim chief financial officer at fiber optic company ONI Systems Corp., before it was acquired in June by Ciena Corp.

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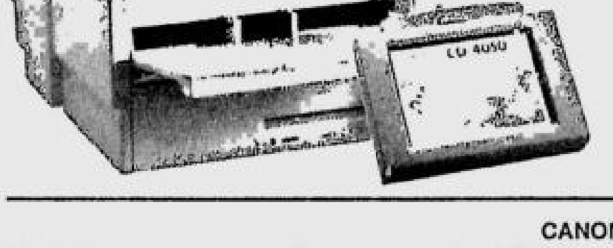

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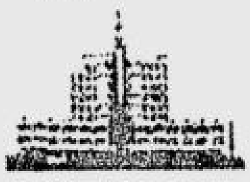

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following **LIBERTY FLOUR MILLS, INC.** stock certificates have been declared lost:

Stock Certificate No.	No. of Shares
8846	141,317
8847	15,737
9285	33,314
9738	47,592
10282	95,184
10782	47,591
11398	142,775
12128	52,351
12786	115,172
13645	70,435

pursuant to an affidavit of lost submitted by the registered owner of the above-mentioned stock certificates, EKI Tourist Development Corporation, dated 20 June 2002.

By:

THE CORPORATE SECRETARY
Liberty Flour Mills, Inc.

(PDI - Aug 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2002)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Tel. Nos. (077) 784-7546, Fax No. (077) 784-7125

INVITATION FOR THE SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF INTENT

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. is upgrading their Billing System to comply with RA 9136 on Unbundling of Rates.

Interested software companies are invited to submit their Letter of Intent to present their proposals not later than September 9, 2002 at Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc., Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913.

(Sgd.) RENATO A. BALINTEC
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 2 & 3, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A Act No 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that JOVEN T. NATIVIDAD has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from MIGUEL JR. to JOVEN in the birth certificate of MIGUEL TADINA NATIVIDAD, JR. who was born on 13 APRIL 1962 at LINGSAT, SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION and whose parents are MIGUEL C. NATIVIDAD and CHARITO A. TADINA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 9 SEPTEMBER 2002.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Aug. 31 & Sept. 2, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Thick & Thin

Q. What's the origin of the expression "through thick and thin," meaning "persistence in a task or in support of someone through both easy and difficult times?"

A. It originally referred to the conditions encountered by a rider on a horse. The thick in the idiom is a shortened form of thicket, a dense growth of underbrush or small trees. Riding a horse through a thicket was unpleasant and sometimes precarious. Thin meant sparse growth or clear ground.

Classified Odd. Claude Ambroise Seurat, dubbed 'The Living Skeleton,' was reputed to have been the skinnest man who ever lived. Born in Troyes, France in 1797, Claude was apparently a normal child of average size. But as he grew in stature, his weight did not increase accordingly. Indeed, what little flesh he possessed as an infant seemed to wither away. At full maturity, Claude had a back-to-chest thickness of only three inches, and in 1825 he agreed to exhibit himself in London. Seurat's head was the part of his body that was not shrunken. Accordingly, neither were his faculties in any way diminished. Claude was smart enough to extract a small fortune from the London exhibition, though he did not live long enough to enjoy it.

For the Record. From the age of about 10 years, sex hormones begin to control the human body's shape. There are two groups of sex hormones: androgens and estrogens. Androgens are responsible for accelerating bone growth patterns. They make hipbones especially broaden shoulders. Estrogens influence growth patterns. They make hipbones especially large, and encourage fat cells to supply extra padding to hips and breasts. The funny thing is, both male and female sexes manufacture both androgens and estrogens. So why do boys and girls grow into such different shapes? The difference is a matter of proportion. Although both sexes make estrogens, only females' ovaries make large quantities. Although both sexes make androgens, only males' testes make the most potent one, testosterone.

WORD WATCH

Barako from the Spanish *verraco* 'male hog or boar used for breeding.'

PDI – September 2, 2002

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below

Project Title	Proposed Renovation and Repair of BSP Gym at the Five Storey Building BSP Main Complex
Scope of Work	: Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed renovation works for the existing gym / BSP Recreation Center all in accordance with the plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	: A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Manila
Approved Budget	: Pesos Five Million Eight Hundred Eleven Thousand Only (P5,811,000.00)
Source of Funding	: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
PCAB License	: at least "B"
Contractor's Construction Experience	: Should have completed within the last seven (7) years (1995 to present) at least one (1) project requiring construction / renovation of gym or similar structure preferably aerobic, recreation or fitness center costing not less than six million pesos. The contractor's project manager should be a registered architect or civil engineer with at least three (3) years experience in construction particularly with projects of similar nature
Certification of Satisfactory Performance	: Should be able to submit notarized affidavits of Satisfactory Performance in the prescribed form to be issued by BSP for the declared completed similar project
Net Financial Contracting Capacity computed as *10 x (Current Asset less Current Liabilities) minus (Value of all on-going contracts including awarded yet to be started)*	: at least Five Million Eight Hundred Eleven Thousand Pesos (P5,811,000.00)
Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Req't	: Pesos Five Hundred Eight One Thousand One Hundred (P581,100.00)
Prequalification Statement forms	
Cost of Forms	Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	August 26 to September 03, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement /Documents	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	: September 5, 2002 4:30 PM
Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification	
Date and Time of Issuance	: September 11, 2002/9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	: PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents	: Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents / Place of Issuance	: Two Thousand Pesos per set (P 2,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	: September 11 to 12, 2002 /9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference	
Date and Time	September 16, 2002 10:00 AM
Venue	BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids	
Deadline/Venue of Submission	September 30, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 & its implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply relative to the bidding & award of contract while the provisions of PD 1594 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended shall govern during project implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Marcos J. Siongco, Jr.
Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 25 & Sept. 2, 2002)

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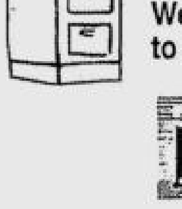

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(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No. 2002USPL480/01 September 29, 2002

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 57,442 (+0% / -5%) metric tons (MT) at seller's option of Soybean Meal for October 2002 shipment.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **September 3, 2002.**

The pre-bid conference shall be held on **September 5, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NAFC Conference Room.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 PM on September 9, 2002. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/ entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details, please contact Mr. Ingemar Bautista at Tel. Nos. 928-1966 or 929-8234.

(Sgd.) RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.
Executive Director

PDI–Sept. 1 & 2, 2002

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Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
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Nationalist, Peace Advocate and International Activist

who passed away on 02 September 2001.

We, his wife **Carmencita Karagdag**; children **Daphne, Athena, Proserpine, Raj,** invite the entire clan of family, friends, and colleagues to celebrate the life and legacy of our beloved **Romy**.

Let us remember the intensity, brilliance and irreverence of a man much love, a father truly adored, a life passionately lived, as we continue to dedicate ourselves to life, empowerment, solidarity and love.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, 07 September 2002, 3:00 p.m. at National City United Church, Times Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Please join us a meaningful time of prayer, recollection, community and mutual support. If you are unable to attend, we invite you to join us in prayer and celebration wherever you maybe.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ANTONIA C. LOMIBAO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 12, 2002

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who, in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

Amparo Dominguez Zamora

(Widow of the late Arsenio L. Zamora)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 1, 2002
at the age of 86.

Her bereaved children **DANNY & LIL, NESTOR & GIE, SUSAN & ERNIE DELOS SANTOS, RHODA & TOMMY CANTO, TOOTSIE & FITZ FORD, MARIO & LIL,** and **CYNTHIA & ERIC YOUNT,** grandchildren **MONICA ZAMORA, PATRICK, KRING-KRING** and **NESS ZAMORA, ANDRE & NANCY DELOS SANTOS, MONCHIT & APPLE DELOS SANTOS, POL, BETSY** and **JOAQUIN CANTO, HECTOR** and **INGGO ZAMORA,** great grandchildren **BRENDAN, DERRICK** and **CAITLIN,** sister **ELLEN,** special friends **LINDA JAPITANA** and **BING BELSA,** in-laws, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 7, 2002, at the La Loma Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

"The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want" (Psalm 33:1)

OUR BELOVED

Abner O. Espino

Of Samal, Bataan and Davao City
Peacefully joined his Creator on the 29th of August 2002
at the age of 74.

His wife: **Veronidia Saldaña Espino**; Children/grandchildren: **Ronald & Baby** (Viel & Adrian), **Gigi** (Shaira), **Nato & Tess** (Michael, Christopher & Patrick), **Rey & JanJan** (Brian, Kim & Renz), **Rolly & Grace** (Sam & Lance), **Millie & Bo** (Marielle).Together with his brother *Felix*, sisters *Teresita, Juana, Lucy* and *Adoracion*, in-laws, nephews, nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at **1st Street Horseshoe Drive, Bajada, Davao City.**

Mass will be held on the 4th of September 2002, 8:00 a.m. at the Redemptorist Church, Bajada, Davao City. Interment will follow at Davao Memorial Park, Matina, Davao City.

We thank the Lord for our dearest

"Abet"
Alberto Guinto Calinisin

Who peacefully joined Him on August 29, 2002
at the age of 44.

We, wife **Tersie**; son **Jed**; mother **Bining**; sisters and brothers **Celia** and **Tito Javier**, **Concordia** and **Joselito Rescober**, **Alfredo Jr.** and **Armie Calinisan**, **Andy** and **Maricel Calinisan**, **Andy** and **Maricel Calinisan** request all pious readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at his residence in 127 Aniban, Bacoor, Cavite. Telephone No. (046) 417-2130.

Interment is on Thursday, September 5, 2002 at Silangan Memorial after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

ALBERT NAVARETTE NAVALTA

of Jolo, Sulu, Butuan City and Quezon City

Pasay City Sheriff, DeMolay, Butuan Chapter

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 31, 2002
at the age of 45.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Josefina Romualdez Hocson

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 1, 2002
at the age of 55.

We, Fina's loving husband Alex; children and children-in-law **Hannah & Ian, Heidi, Herbert & Neley, Rupert,** and **Ida**; grandchildren **Tara, Anton, Nadine,** and **Lia**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Chapel at Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 5, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Church.

Our Beloved "Nanay"

Sofia Villanueva Dimanlig

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 30, 2002
at the age of 84.

She is survived by her brother **Crisencio** and **Zaide Villanueva**; children **Adelaida** and Baltazar Castro, **Rainerio** and Elizabeth Aguilar, **Ruben** and Luisa Macalinao, **Ma. Nelinda**, **Ma. Eileen** and Ramon Janer, **Ma. Aurora** and Ramoncito Sanchez, **Ma. Roxane** and Ferdinand Damian, **Nicolas** and Rosario Melliza Tolentino; cousins, in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We rejoice for she is now in the bossom of our loving heavenly Father.

Her body lies in state at the Dimanlig residence at #31 M.H. del Pilar Street, San Nicolas, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 5, 2002, at Pasig Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Memorial Service Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish, Pasig City.

MAXIMINA "Lola Siming" D. MARTINEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 30, 2002 at the age of [illegible]

She is survived by her bereaved husband Pepe; children Bobbette & Joven, Jing, Norman & Nor, Ronnie, Baby, Rommel; grandchildren Abigail, Joshua, Angelo, Nahum, and sister Sr. Clemencia SSpS; and other relatives.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 3-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Cremation will be on September 3, 2002 at La Funeraria Paz, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Sampaloc, Manila.

Col. NONITO OPSIMA

Date of Birth: June 22, 1939
Date of Death: August 27, 2002

His remains lie in state at
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Asean to set up bulwark vs cyberterrorists

By Abigail L. Ho

COUNTRIES in the Southeast Asian region have agreed to establish an Asean Network Security Coordinating Center that will help combat and prevent political and economic cyberterrorism, which is expected to become prevalent in the coming years.

Senior telecommunications ministers from the 10 countries agreed that threats of terrorism via the Internet would become more common and that there was an urgent need to protect the information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure of each of these countries.

"We are now seeing international concerns and efforts on counter-terrorism expanding from securing the physical infrastructure to securing the information structure. This center will secure ICT infrastructure as well as the data contained in the countries' databases. We will facilitate immediate set-up because the threat is already there," Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a news briefing.

Singapore's Minister of Information, Communications and the Arts David Tik En Lim added that computer emergency response teams (CERTs) would also be set up in each Asean country to serve as "early warning systems" against viruses that could destroy a country's database.

"Viruses can pop up anywhere so this is one way to cooperate. When a virus hits one country, it can go and warn the others about that virus. The threat is there. Although we still have to see how it develops, the threat is still everywhere," he said.

Mendoza said the Asean telecommunications ministers would also be seeking the aid of other Asean bodies, including the Asean body on transnational crimes, which is formulating a similar plan.

The Asean nations will also be focusing on developing and strengthening their ICT infrastructure to be able to attract more investments to the region.

Lim said the value of ICT in the world continued to rise as the need for people to communicate with each other in a cost-effective way became increasingly urgent. Also, its presence had become more prominent across all industries.

"We see ICT at work in all industries like manufacturing, logistics, health care, tourism and media. This is why ICT is an important component for Asean integration. But we need to continue developing manpower, the most important investment in ICT. We also need a good policy and regulatory environment," he said.

He added that the Asean member-nations needed to continue improving their ICT capacity to prevent China from snatching the bulk of investments from all over the world.

"There are two ways to look at China. If we don't improve our capability, China is a threat. But if we improve our capability, China is an opportunity. It is a very large marketplace where we can provide our services. At the same time, we can attract more investments with improved capability," he said.

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Microsoft

Advance Wars: Handheld art of war on the GBA

By Joey G. Alarilla

SURE, it took some effort, but you've finally deployed your troops exactly where you want them on the battlefield.

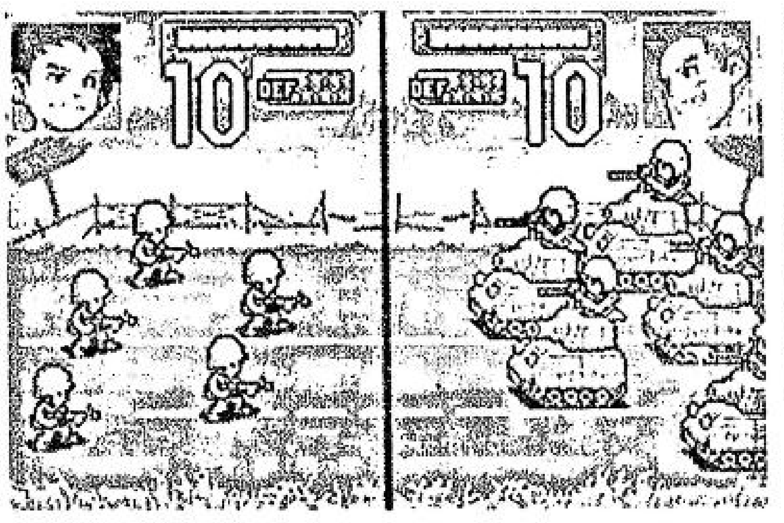
Your trusty infantry and bazooka-wielding mech troops have already captured y cities, while your tillery stands ready pound the enemy's ground forces to smithereens. The tanks are ready to roll and you rub your hands in anticipation—maybe even laugh like Dr. Evil—as you think of the royal s-whupping you're about to v your hapless foe. It's your opponent's turn, however, and the weather takes a turn for the worse. Much, much worse—as a blizzard strikes and your troops now find it harder to move, while your opponent's forces aren't penalized. After all, it's your foe who created the blizzard in the first place, using his CO power. Maybe you should have paid more attention to your enemy's CO power meter instead of cackling like crazy, huh?

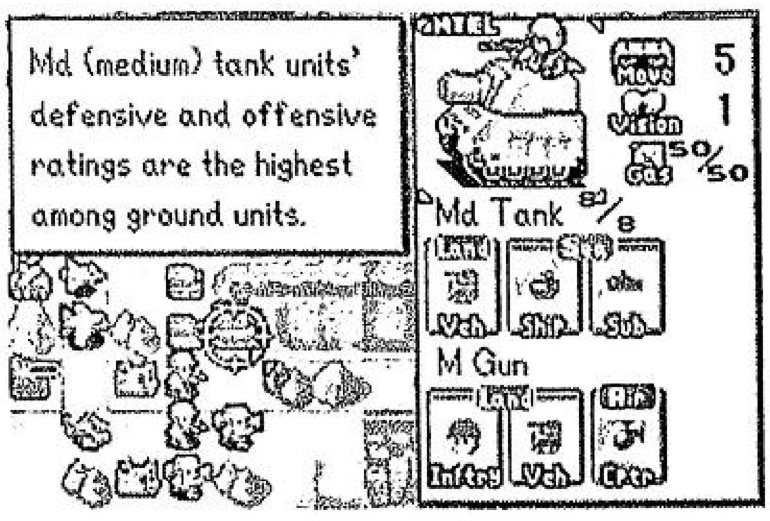
Obviously, the above scenario isn't taking place in the real world, but in the turn-based strategy game Advance Wars for the Game Boy Advance.

GAME BOY ADVANCE
We review this game on the GameBoy

Don't let the cute manga/anime-style graphics fool you—this is one sophisticated strategy game. The great thing about Advance Wars is that it gives you a lot of options and a lot of different kinds of troops to play with, while offering easy-to-use controls, light-hearted repartee and likeable characters. Heck, even your opponents have interesting personalities—but don't let that stop you from pounding them to bits.

Advance Wars offers a story-driven campaign, and you get to meet different COs you can use as well as different foes as the war progresses. To make sure that you become familiar with all the aspects of gameplay—and believe me, you can do so many things in Advance Wars—you first have to complete the extensive tutorial mode before you can unlock the campaign and other game modes. This might turn off





Md (medium) tank units' defensive and offensive ratings are the highest among ground units.

ADVANCE/B19

Nomination for PICS' 1st E-Government Awards ongoing

THE PHILIPPINE Internet Commerce Society (PICS) has launched the 1st Philippine E-Government Awards to recognize government agencies with relevant IT projects in compliance with the provisions of Republic Act 8792 or The E-Commerce Law. On Nov. 20, these government agencies will be awarded during PICS' (www.pics.org.ph) National E-Commerce Congress.

The annual Philippine E-Government Awards cultivates the development of excellence in governance with the use of information technology. The award categories are:

1) E-Filing Award—Government agencies that accept the creation, filing or retention of government documents in the form of electronic data messages or electronic documents.

2) E-Permit Award—Government agencies that issue permits, licenses or approval in the form of electronic data messages or electronic documents.

3) E-Payment Award—Government agencies that require and/or accept payments, and issue receipts acknowledging such payments, through systems using electronic data messages or electronic documents.

4) Excellence Award—Government agencies able to perform its functions using electronic data messages or electronic documents.

At present, 15 government agencies have been nominated. These include the Land Transportation Office, GSIS, LandBank, National Statistics Office, Department of Trade and Industry, National Library, Technology Livelihood Resource Center, Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Foreign Affairs, among others. Interested individuals and trade organizations can submit government agency nominees till Sept. 20, to Janette Toral (info@pics.org.ph), Special Projects committee chair.

On Nov. 20-22, PICS will hold the annual National E-Commerce Congress and Exhibit at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental. The event underscores this year's theme "Making Business Work in the NOW Economy." This promotional activity is designed to sustain e-business amid the prevailing global economic downturn and disturbing developments of dotcoms.

For details, visit http://www.ecommerce-congress.biz.

Iomega Zip Drive 250 megabytes

THE BOTTOM LINE

By Jerry Liao

THIS week, we'll take a look at the Iomega Zip Drive 250Mb.

Strengths

1) No need for power supply. Draws power from USB cable.

2) Backward compatibility with old 100Mb disks.

3) Works with Mac OS 8.5.1 and later, Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me and NT 4.0.

4) Bundled with QuickSync2 (Trial version), Adobe Activeshare, Iomega Backup (PC), MGI PhotoSuite (Mac), MusicMatch Jukebox.

Weaknesses

1) Experienced some incompatibility with McAfee Viruscan.

2) Will face tough competition with CDs and DVDs in terms of price and storage size.

3) Like any device using USB connection, it's somewhat slow.

The Bottom Line

Sleekly designed and very portable. A great external disk storage companion for mobile and PC users to move their larger files to and from any computer.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit www.infochat.com.ph.

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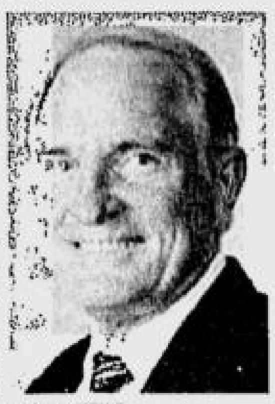
Intel CEO: Education RP's best bet in IT

By Joel D. Pinaroc

IN A MEETING with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang recently, Craig Barrett, chief executive officer of Intel Corp., said that education remains the country's best bet if it hopes to recover from the ongoing economic slump and compete more actively in the global business arena.

Barrett, who is in the country as part of his annual regional visit in Asia, met with the President to present the winners of the Intel Science and Engineering Fair or ISEF, in which the country's delegation won significant awards.

A high school teacher and four high school students from the Philippines were among those who won prizes and grants at the ISEF held in Kentucky.


BARRETT

Although reluctant to give more details of the said meeting, Barrett, who is in the country as part of his annual regional visit in Asia, said the meeting with the President covered a wide range of topics although the meeting was brief.

"We talked about infrastructure, such as a four-lane superhighway from Makati City to Cavite, the PPA (power purchase adjustment), the challenges the country is facing as far as IT (information technology) and the global economy is concerned, and of course, about education," Barrett said.

According to Barrett, he discussed with the President the semiconductor giant's education-related initiatives in the Philippines, some of which have been rolled-out.

"The global economy is more challenging today, than it was a year ago," Barrett said, stressing that the Philippines need a skilled workforce trained in leading-edge computing and communications technology, in order to compete with its Asian neighbors.

"Education and digital capability are the foundations for the future. The Philippines must use education, especially math, science and engineering to build a strong workforce that is equipped to compete in the digital economy," he said.

Intel, one of the largest multinational IT companies operating in the country, is an active contributor to the Philippines' education sector.

Aside from the yearly ISEF, the company's latest foray includes the Intel Computer Clubhouse, a community-based education program, wherein computers are made available to what Intel calls "underserved" youth.

Intel has also rolled out its mobile IT classroom in the form of a roving bus equipped with hardware and software facilities.

As part of his visit in the Philippines, Barrett also inaugurated these projects.

Siemens to ax 700 more jobs in mobile phone, network division

MUNICH—German electronics giant Siemens is to cut a further 700 jobs in its IC Mobile telecoms unit, on top of 4,600 already programmed, the firm disclosed recently.

A spokesperson said the unit, which makes mobile phones and mobile phone networks and equipment, would shed the jobs by the end of the next fiscal year to Sept. 30, 2003.

Siemens' mobile networks division—which covers GSM and UMTS technologies—posted a sharply narrower operating loss of 21 million euros ($20.4 million) in the third quarter (the period from April to June), compared with a loss of 511 million euros a year earlier.

Like other companies in the telecoms and high-tech sectors, Siemens has been hit hard by the bursting of the telecoms bubble and a collapse in investment by telecom operators, and has now decided to cut more than 30,000 jobs across all its divisions around the world.

Last week, the company revealed it was cutting an additional 4,000 jobs in its ICN fixed-telephone networks division, not just 1,300 as announced earlier. *AFP*

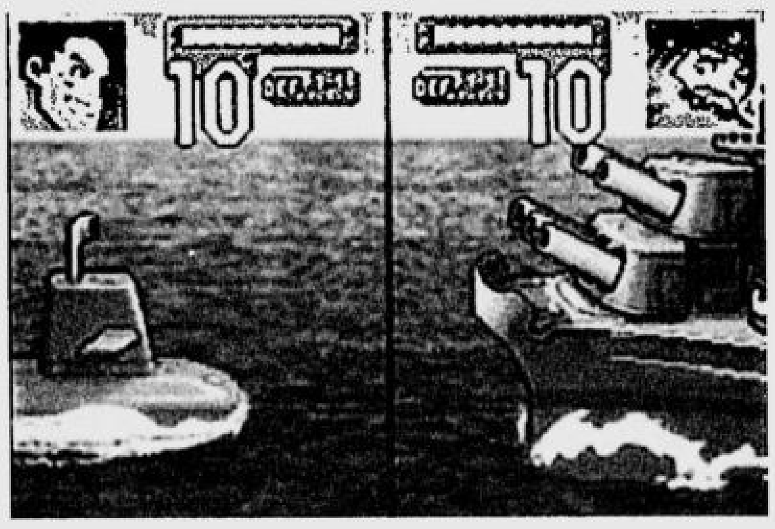
Battle to develop new DVD standard heats up

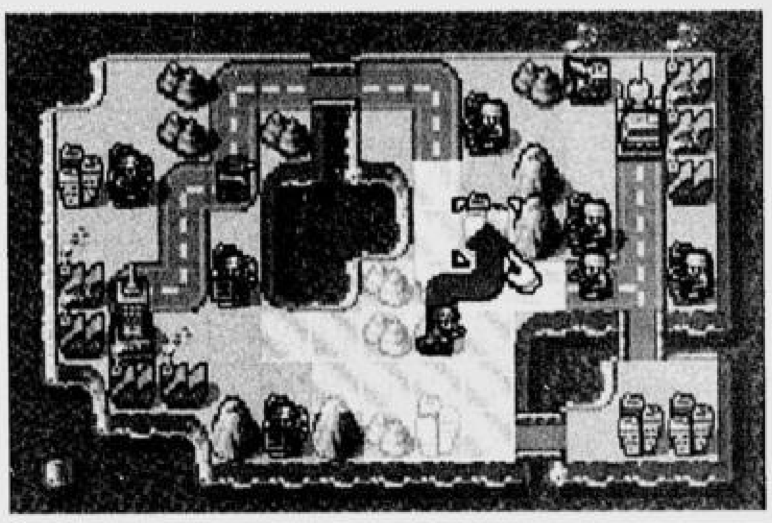
TOKYO—A battle to delevop next generation DVD discs heated up recently as Toshiba Corp. and NEC Corp. proposed a new DVD format incompatible with one announced by a consortium of rivals.

The two companies hope to win the approval of the DVD Forum, an international body of hardware and software manufacturers, as they push forward with a global standard to make blue-laser DVD players and drives. Blue laser discs are able to store more data than current red laser discs, said NEC.

But the format contrasts with one proposed in February by nine technology firms including Sony Corp. of Japan and South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., who also want to create a worldwide standard as firms shift to blue laser from red laser discs. Sony said the announcement by NEC and Toshiba would torpedo attempts to create a common standard. *AFP*

Advance Wars: Handheld art of war . . .





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From page B18

some players, but the tutorial does offer interesting scenarios that allow you to become familiar with the different kinds of troops—infantry, mech, tanks, helicopters, fighter planes, bombers, artillery, rockets, missiles, battleships, cruisers and submarines, to name a few—that you can deploy.

It also helps that you have a really cute instructor in the person of Nell, who's in command of the Orange Star Army. Once you finish training, you'll become the military adviser of the Orange Star Army. At first you'll only be able to use one CO, a kid named Andy, but as the campaign progresses you'll meet other Orange Star COs as well.

One thing you'll quickly realize while playing Advance Wars is that brute force isn't the answer. In fact, you're almost always outnumbered and the enemy usually has more resources and factories that will enable him to create new units. So becoming familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of each unit type and knowing how to outflank opponents will definitely come in handy.

As already mentioned, the CO power is another interesting feature of this game. When the CO power meter is full, you can unleash your CO's special ability—for example, one CO can fix the damage of all your troops, another can multiply the damage your units inflict. Of course, your opponents also have their own CO powers. Apart from the blizzard attack I cited earlier, some examples include the ability to increase the range of artillery and other distance weapons or to allow units to strike twice in a single turn.

The campaign takes you through tougher and tougher scenarios, finally setting you up for a showdown with what I would call the CO From Heck. You won't believe how many troops this weirdo has and how many factories and resources allow him to keep churning out units.

After you complete the campaign, you can unlock the advanced campaign mode. Actually, you can use a cheat to unlock this mode from the start, but where's the fun in that?

The great thing about Advance Wars is its wealth of options, which make for great replay value. For one, you can buy maps using the credits you earn from how well you play a given scenario in the campaign mode. The more credits you earn, the more maps you can buy, and the more maps you have, the more scenarios you can play in the other modes.

Not only that, but you can actually create your own maps with the nifty map editor. Plus, the GBA link cable not only allows you to duke it out with other GBA owners, but also exchange maps with your friends.

As you can see, Advance Wars gives you a lot of bang for your buck. It showcases how serious they are about strategy games in Japan. In fact, Advance Wars is actually part of a "Wars" series that Japanese gamers are very familiar with, having appeared in the Super Famicom and the Game Boy.

Thank God for the GBA. Now the rest of the world can find out what it was missing.

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SOFTWARE EVOLUTION

What's happening with Bill Gates and Microsoft? Nothing but .NET

By Gerry Plaza

WHAT'S new with Microsoft?

It's nothing but .NET. Bill Gates announced this vision of connectivity between information, people, systems and devices only two years ago and now the software leader has produced its first release candidate of Microsoft Windows .NET server, its most significant upgrade to its server platform.

The product revolves around the use of extensible markup language (XML) services: small, discrete, building-block applications that link-up to each other and to larger applications through the Internet. These services are the foundation of distributed computing on the Internet

XML Web services are considered the most significant computing innovation, even seen to alter the way we do business to business (B2B) or business to consumer (B2C) communications. Using these XML services, disparate enterprise data and infrastructure within organizations can now interoperate more effectively.

Applications can now gather information and interact with data sources across a wide section of platforms. This functionality is native to XML services offered in Microsoft's .NET framework using common language runtime and set of base classes.

This framework is core to Windows .NET server, which comes in three variants: the Windows .NET Standard Server, Enterprise Server and Enterprise Server 64-bit. A fault-tolerant Windows .NET Datacenter Server is also in the roadmap. The free release candidate is available for download at http://www.microsoft.com/windows.netserver/preview/default.mspx. However, you have to register at the download site to receive e-mail detailing installation instructions, the necessary product key for activation and inclusion in a Windows .NET Server newsgroup.

While enumerating the salient features of the release would be quite extensive and apt for a future article, the key advantages are compelling: a fault tolerant Internet Information Server (IIS), native XML and two times the clustering power of Windows 2000.

To further accelerate .NET deployment, Microsoft initiated its .NET Connected Logo Program for partners. This initiative is aimed at helping customers identify partners developing applications and Web services optimized for the .NET framework. For developers, Microsoft also launched its "Optimized for .NET Development" logo program to identify components, tools and languages that take advantage of the .NET Framework and the Common Language Runtime.

Also, Microsoft announced "Titanium," the code-name for the next generation Exchange 2000, which will allow seamless integration of wireless functionality that provides user connectivity at any time, any place and on any device. Titanium is the premier application for Windows .NET Server and will take advantage of Active Directory enhancements, improved clustering and faster backup and restore.

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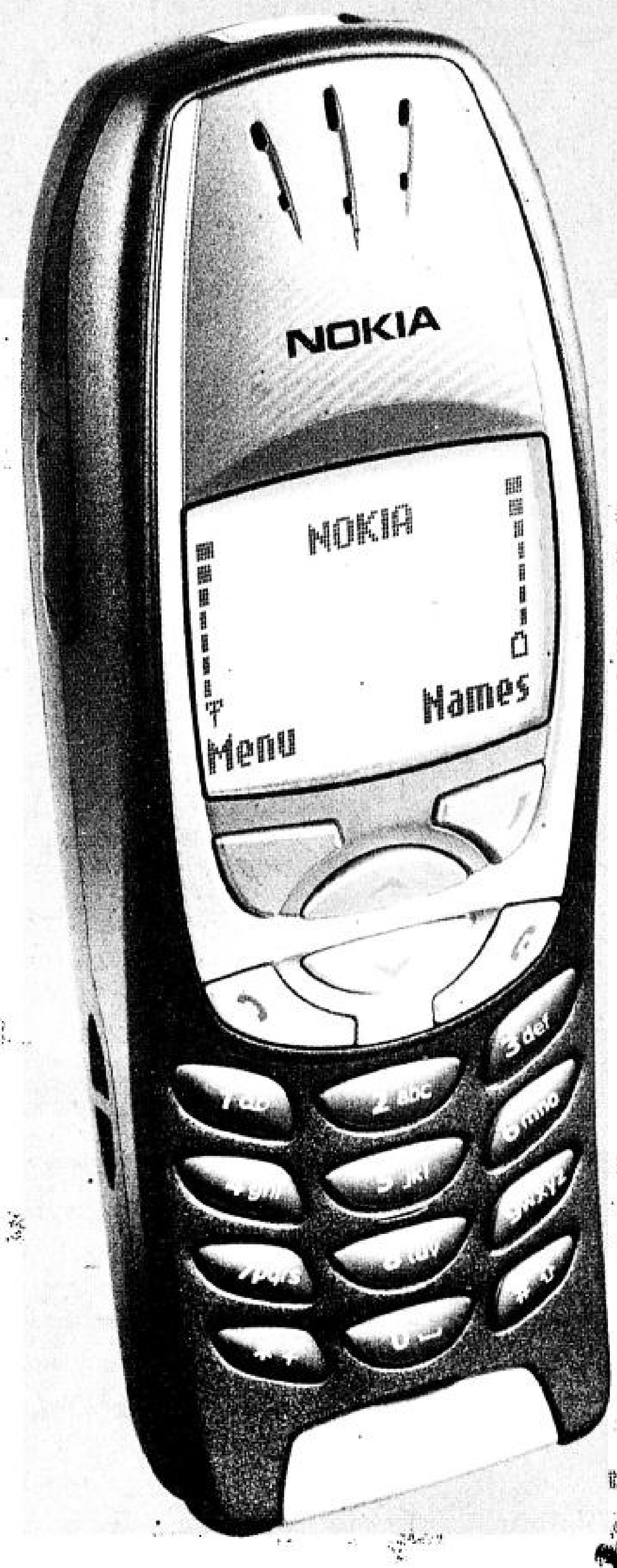

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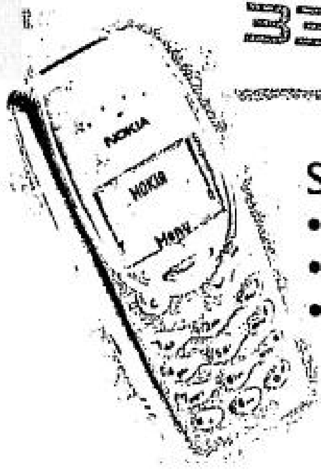

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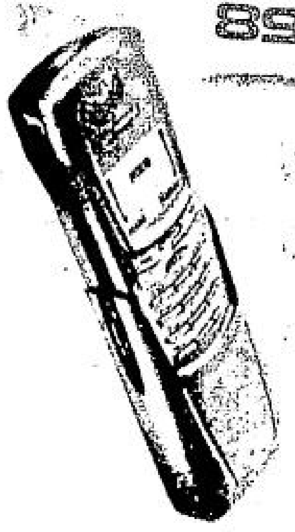

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My life in the RP cement industry

By Magdaleno B. Albarracin Jr.

THE AUTHOR as a young exec

MY love affair with the cement industry started with my doctoral thesis in 1970 at the Harvard University on the subject of "Making Decisions on Plant Capacity in the Philippine Cement Industry."

I had struck a friendship at Harvard with then Mr. Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. and being the boss of Bacnotan Cement Industries Inc. at that time, he would be able to get me access to the industry.

Coming back from Harvard in 1971, I taught full time at the UP College of Business Administration and at the same time, worked part time with Phinma; first, in the paper business, and later full-time in the cement business. Now, I am the president of Union Cement Corp., the largest operating cement company in the Philippines, and I believe the most profitable even though our accounting is quite conservative. Although Lafarge Cement has a larger combined capacity, it is a holding company of several operating cement companies. And with the impending acquisition by Union Cement of Alsons Cement, Union Cement Corp. will now be the largest in terms of effective operating capacity. With the Alsons plant in North Mindanao, Union will have four operating plants and one mothballed plant strategically located in the different parts of the country. Its plants are efficient, its brands are dominant in their respective market areas, and its organization, in my maybe biased view, is the best.

Between 1976, when I got involved in the Phinma cement business, and now, we grew from being one of the smallest to the biggest. At that time, there were 18 separate players and we thought that by force of economics, they will be consolidated into four or five which is now the case more or less. Along the way, we went through three distinct eras but maintained the same basic operating philosophy.

The eras were from 1975 to 1987; 1988 to 1997; and 1998 to the present. The operating philosophy was to have the best people; to pay them well; and be the first mover or innovator.

In those 12 years of the first era, the industry was mainly family-run and was plagued with inefficiency in the face of government price control. Most cement companies were financially strapped and we looked at this situation as an opportunity.

In 1976, we were asked by the Madrigal family to manage the Rizal Cement Co., whose plant in Binangonan, Rizal, had been on shutdown for a few months already. We were able to make Rizal Cement profitable.

In 1978, the then Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank (PCIB) sold to the Phinma Group the then Luzon Cement plant which it had foreclosed and which was already on shutdown at that time. We bought the plant for about P50 million with a 10 percent down payment and the balance payable in 10 years at a concessionary interest rate. We formed a new company named Central Cement Corp. to own and operate the plant. Principally, because of its isolated location near the Sierra Madre mountain, it took us some time and lots of effort

MY LIFE/C2

Recruiting more women is the smart thing to do

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE did not aspire to reach the top but he did. The key to his success is his love for his work.
JOHNNY VILLENA

MAGDALENO B. Albarracin has been working for the same company for the past 31 years. He has decided he will shift to a lighter life soon but has one goal before he leaves—put more women in top positions in his firm.

From a part-time consultant, he now occupies the No. 2 spot at the Philippine Investment Management Consultants Inc., or Phinma, one of the pioneers of the cement industry.

Other than cement—Union Cement, Davao Cement, and Bacnotan, and its paper firm, United Pulp and Paper Co.—the firm is known for its stringent recruitment requirements that the candidates can usually only be found abroad.

He says his recent promotion to vice chair of Phinma is actually in preparation for his retirement.

But before he passes on the torch, Albarracin wants to recruit more women in the group.

"Recruiting women is a smart thing to do," he says. "Half the population is women. There is a lot of supply versus the demand for women talent which means for the same salary you can get a smarter woman."

In its over 40 years in existence, Phinma has been dominated by male engineers and executives who have impressive educational qualifications.

Phinma recruits Filipino students while still enrolled in schools like Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Phinma recruits people with backgrounds in finance, business, and engineering.

Albarracin or "Mag" as his friends call him, say the organization attracts good people.

And the head people themselves are the ones who recruit these top graduates.

But he insists on his goal to put in more women in Phinma and so far he has succeeded in recruiting one for their Davao plant.

"I told her there are few women who like to succeed in manufacturing but I want you to help me change that macho society," he says.

He feels though that Ramon del Rosario Sr. and Oscar Hilado, the two other top honchos in the Phinma group, "just tolerate me" in his campaign.

It was Del Rosario himself who recruited Albarracin. After finishing electrical engineering from the University of the Philippines he taught at the UP College of Engineering in 1956. Two years later, he studied Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He had a short stint at Procter & Gamble and in 1964 he took up his MBA in UP.

But it was in 1971 while studying his doctorate in business administration that he met Ramon Sr. through his son Ramon Jr., who at that time was taking his MBA in the same school.

Albarracin made his thesis on the cement industry in the Philippines "not really because I liked it but because access to information is important" and the former ambassador allowed him to use Phinma data.

When he came back, he still had a contract to teach in UP but Del Rosario got him as a part time consultant in Phinma and assigned him to the paper firm.

"I didn't aspire to go to the top. I just enjoyed working," he says.

He admits that there were times when he would work even on Sundays but he would bring his wife, even in plant visits out of town.

He has one son who is married now and he has two grandchildren. Despite his work schedule then he says he did manage to teach his son in math during his high school and college years.

Albarracin enjoyed his work too much he did not notice the years. But he feels he would like to have more time to pursue his to do list and not wait until he is too old to enjoy the fruits of his long years of labor.

He has five items on his list which he plans to do in five years:

- teach engineering or business
- write on management
- be involved in the UP alumni
- travel and attend the Carnival in Rio
- study history for a term or two abroad.

He says history fascinates him because through it one sees how civilization evolved and ask why things are the way they are. He is particularly interested in battlefields and plans to visit several sites like Gettysburg, Waterloo, and Austerlitz.

He is interested in how the battles were executed because he sees a parallelism with business.

"You have concentration of forces, you need a few things to do a good job, you need to surprise your competitors. Just like in business. You need preparation and a good plan to succeed."

FRANCO, Elise, Cristina, Rico and Bing del Rosario.

Top exec stops to smell roses, play tutor and driver to three kids

JAIME G. del Rosario, country managing director of Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting), and one of the pillars of the IT industry in the Philippines, has decided to stop and smell the roses.

Only 49, Bing, as he is known to friends, wants to have more time to play father to his three children. This route was actually first taken by a sister, Grace Castano, who retired from Johnson and Johnson Phils Inc. where she was the regional marketing head and GM of Indonesia, two years ago to spend more time with her two young children. (Grace, however, returned to J&J as its president a few months ago.)

From a workforce of less than 400 when he took over the helm, Accenture had grown to over 1,300 by Aug. 31, Accenture's fiscal year-end.

With offshore outsourcing projects accelerating, he does not see why Accenture Philippines can't be 3,000 technology professionals in another five to 10 years.

Bing has been one of the pillars of the ICT (information, communications and technology) industry as well as a luminary in the consulting profession for most of the '90s.

He was a regular fixture in the early days of the Philippine Computer Society, having served as director for three consecutive terms, and a member of the very first task force asked to draft the country's national IT agenda, back in 1984.

TOP EXEC/C3

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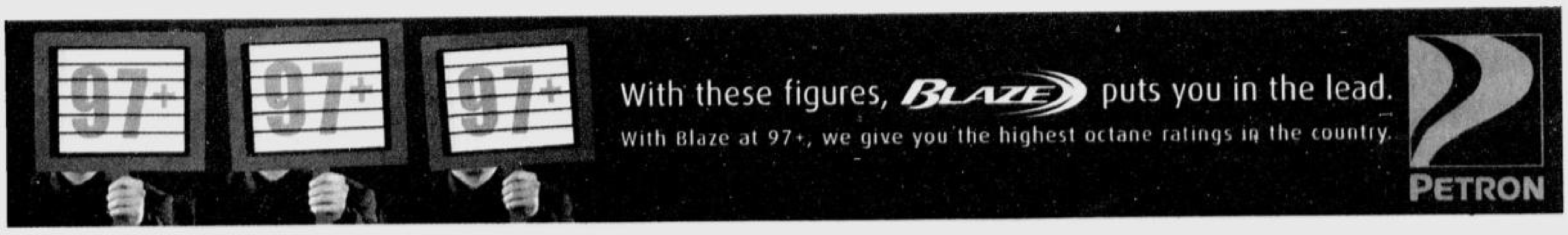

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From Rio to Johannesburg: A business perspective

MAPping the Future

Corazon PB. Claudio

JOHANNESBURG—The UN World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) has set aside three days of high-level debates involving heads of states. After all the multi-stakeholder discussions and negotiations in many pre-WSSD conferences in several parts of the world and during the past week here in Johannesburg, we now hope these concluding debates will lead to the adoption of an implementation plan for the sustainable development of all countries in the world.

This plan will cover economic growth, social development, and environmental protection—with detailed priorities and actions, and firm political and financial support.

More than 20,000 delegates representing various groups—governments, businesses, and non-governmental organizations from all over the world—are here in and around Johannesburg for the WSSD.

Many of us have been involved in 10 years of extensive efforts to implement sustainable development using the Agenda 21 framework-the main output of the first Earth Summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The big question now is what have we accomplished since then?

In the business sector, since 1992, we have seen an increasing number of mostly big businesses adopting the "triple bottom line" approach, an approach that takes into account economic, social, and environmental factors.

In the Philippines, the business sector has developed and started to adopt the Business Agenda 21. We have seen some members of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) leading the implementation of BA 21:

For example, my committee co-chair, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chairs a sub-committee project involving the MAP, the Makati Commercial Estate Association (Macea) and the Ayala Foundation to promote sound solid waste management practices in the commercial areas of Makati City. With significant success gained so far, this project can now serve as model for private sector initiative on solid waste management.

My other co-chair, Jun Palafox, with the help of his company, Palafox Associates, has developed a vision and plan for the urban development of Metro Manila, which he is now promoting to be realized through public-private sector cooperation.

Former MAP president Johnny Santos of Nestle is now leading the implementation of greening of the supply chain. Through the implementation of this concept, Nestle assists its suppliers to become environmentally sound. We can cite other examples that show active involvement of our Philippine business community in sustainable development work.

We have also seen the birth of the Philippine Environmental Industry Association and a few other associations dealing with subsectors of the industry, such as, air and water; the growth of the Philippine Business for the Environment, and the expansion of our MAP committee on environment, which now includes urban development.

Despite similar efforts in many countries, I agree with the other delegates here that we need to do more—we need to double or triple our efforts for we are still far from having a sustainable world. I need not explain that—just breathe the air, see the garbage in our streets, and look at our murky waterways. And, most importantly, think of about half of the world's population living on less than P100 per day.

The global business community, which is often skeptical about the merit of multi-stakeholder big conferences like this, is now actively participating in the WSSD through various activities-partnership initiatives, legacy projects, virtual exhibition, a business day and several side events before and during the WSSD.

Numerous business and other groups are now proposing new or revitalized partnership initiatives. Through these initiatives, the initiators are expressing their desire to work openly with others to promote sustainable development in the big five areas that the WSSD is focused on—water (and sanitation), energy, health, agriculture, and—biodiversity-or Wehab.

For example, J. Walter Thompson, with the Canadian Department of Industry and Environment and Unesco as its initial partners, has started a partnership aimed at engaging the advertising industry to help communicate sustainability around the world.

It is inviting interested organizations in government, industry, academe, NGOs, and inter-governmental sectors from all regions to be its global partners in this undertaking. Our institute, the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), is responding favorably to this invitation with the hope that we can count on our local advertising industry to support us.

Several WSSD legacy projects covering Wehab are being launched during the WSSD. These legacy projects are aimed at leaving something behind for the sustainable development of the host country, South Africa.

But we also need WSSD legacy projects in all the countries participating in this summit, if only to justify the resources being spent for the holding of this big event. Initiating one or more of WSSD legacy projects for our country is one of the challenges to the Philippine delegation.

Anticipating the need to remember the WSSD and make it a source of inspiration for us to do more, we, at the MAP, have started the preparation of a book, "Our Environment Today."

With the support of the Canadian government, MAP member Romy Roxas, and Kodak Philippines, we hope to complete and launch the book immediately after the WSSD.

The book will document, through photographs taken by 90 photographers in the Philippines and quotable quotes from 143 leaders and representatives of various sectors, where we are now and where we want to go in sustainable development, particularly in environmental management.

We hope the book will serve as a simple but powerful legacy—one that will motivate its readers, especially MAP members and other policy and decision makers, to take new or additional initiatives for sustainable development.

Here in Johannesburg, several companies, such as Toyota, are now presenting their initiatives in Ubuntu Village, the site for exhibitions and parallel events during the summit. Earlier, I also presented our business community's initiatives through a simple exhibit last week.

Another major business activity here is the holding of a business day, which the Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD) has organized. The BASD is a coalition of the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

The parallel and side events here have been providing the delegates great opportunities to connect and learn from others how we may do more for sustainable development.

I have been most actively involved in the pre-summit business conference and side event that CDG (Carl Duisberg Gessellschaft e.V.), a German foundation for international training and development, has organized and has invited me for. CDG's 7th International Business Forum, with the title above, was held from 20 to 22 August 2002 just outside Johannesburg with more than 100 participants from all over the world. On Sept. 1, I had the honor of joining a panel of five to present the results of the forum at the Ubuntu Village.

At the international business forum, we tackled various subjects—business-to-business networks, trilateral partnerships (business, government, and civil society), environmental management in SMEs, the role of the Internet, and market opportunities. We shall soon share the results of the forum through the MAP website www.map.com.ph. For now, let me share two points in my presentation.

First is the need to give small and medium enterprises (SMEs) special attention in capacity building for sustainable development. If we want to make the business sector environmentally sound and sustainable, we must start with the SMEs.

With the increasing dependence of both our national and global economies on subcontracting to SMEs and outsourcing of services from SMEs, how can big businesses produce products and services that are sustainable if their parts are not so?

Second is the need to start the capacity-building work with the smallest element in an SME—the individual. He or she may be an executive or a lowly employee who takes the daily decisions and actions that make a company sustainable. The capacity-building efforts must start with the changes that we want in each individual.

And that's one task that we must do as early as possible-perhaps, from the early childhood development (ECD) period. For example, AIJC is now proposing integration of environmental awareness and caring in the ECD program of the government, which the Departments of Social Welfare, Health, and Education are now implementing with the support of the World Bank.

MAPping of a sustainable future must start with and include our children.

(The author is a member of the MAP, president of the AIJC and co-chair of the MAP committee on environment and urban development. She is part of the official Philippine delegation to the WSSD, which is now in progress in Johannesburg, South Africa. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@-globenet.com.ph.)

My life in the Philippine cement industry

From page C1

to make the operation profitable.

In 1984, a few months after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, we bought the then HI Cement plant in Bulacan from the House of Investments. The plant had been on shutdown for about six months. It was sold to us for about P120 million with about 10 percent down payment and the balance payable in 10 years at a reasonable interest rate. The operation became profitable almost immediately.

Finally, in 1987, Rizal Cement organized a subsidiary Solid Cement Corp. to bid on the Island Cement plant from the Asset Privatization Trust (APT) of the government.. Solid Cement won the bid at P450 million but was pressured by the government to pay P500 million instead. Solid became profitable immediately.

That was the first era. The key to success was the value we added to those assets by way of being able to increase production from about 50 percent of capacity with the former owners to about 85 percent capacity with minimum investments. Also, we were able to sell the increased volume in spite of the stagnant market because we had the best sales organization, and the best dealer organization who liked our dependable plants especially during the surge in demand in the summer. We also succeeded in requiring our regular customers/dealers to post collateral to cover their credit line with us, hence, very little bad debts.

Another key factor to the foregoing success was the favorable deals we were able to negotiate and the competence of our operating people.

The second era was the expansion of industry demand from 1988 to 1997. While the other players were just beginning to make money and were hesitant to expand their plants up to 1994, we took the calculated risk of concluding that the market would expand under the new government. We expanded with the minimum of investment by way of converting to precalciner process our suspension preheater kiln in HI and doubling its capacity. We also put a separate one million ton per year precalciner line in Solid Cement with half of the equipment being used equipment; and then a 720-thousand ton per year precalciner line in Bacnotan using the same approach. The cost per additional annual ton was about $90 per ton instead of $130 per ton had we used all brand new equipment.

It was one thing to want to use this low cost approach; it was another to execute it. We could do it because we had the people who knew how to put up a plant even with used equipment although we admit that in the process we committed mistakes. But we also learned from the mistakes and improved on our technique. Also, operating a plant consisting of both new and used equipment requires know-how which our competitors probably did not have. Finally, we had a good amount of confidence in our ability to sell the additional volume.

The three expansions operated less efficiently than a brand new plant would, but they cost us less. Since the expansion of the market was somewhat uncertain during the period, in fact the market declined in 1992. We thought our approach was more prudent and more aligned with the market uncertainty. If the market did not pan out, our debts would not be very heavy. Also, we could not afford to finance a brand new plant at that time. Nonetheless, we appropriated for ourselves all the market growth during the period up to 1994, as no one else expanded. Meanwhile, the government lifted price controls in 1992 so we could get reasonable price increases.

In 1994, the market growth was becoming sustained and we put up an all new one million ton per year line in the Davao plant, and in 1995, we started a 1.5 million tons per year all new line in Hi. At about 1995, the other players started expanding. They were Republic, FR, Fortune, Alsons, and APO.

Grand Cement, a newcomer, started constructing a 650,000 ton/yr. plant in Cebu in 1991, relocating a used plant in Texas. It took Grand Cement four years to do the job and maybe two years to debug it. The others completed their plant expansions at about the onset of the Asian financial crises. They suffered much indeed. On the other hand, our Davao expansion and to a lesser extent our HI expansion enjoyed for a short while the good cement market up to the end of 1997.

The third era was from 1997 to the present. With the Asian crises starting July 1997, the peso devalued and cement demand dropped in 1998, 1999 and 2000, and somewhat stabilized in year 2001. Most cement companies were squeezed between lower demand with low prices on one hand and high debt service on the other. Most, if not all, lost lots of money.

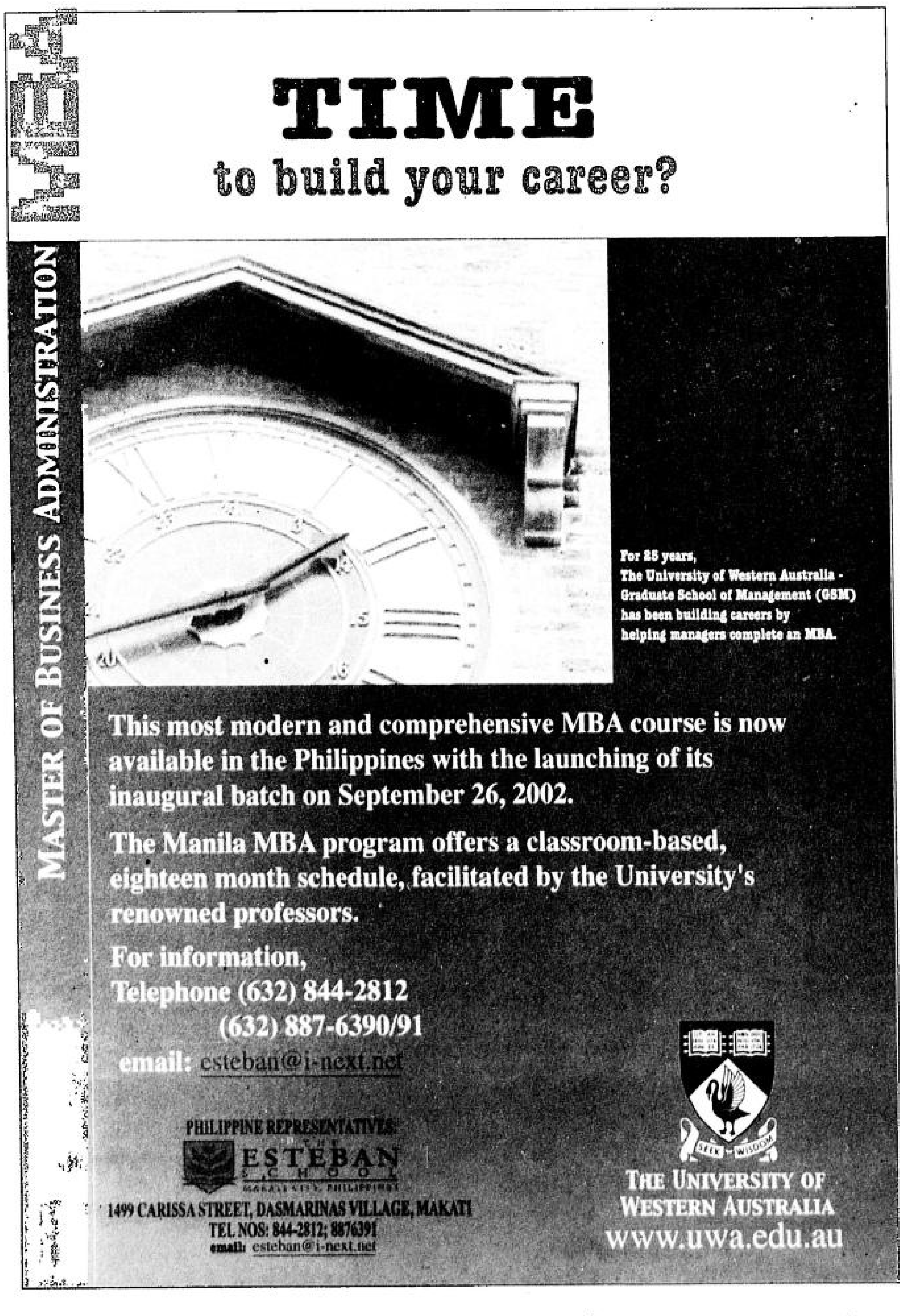
The crises gave the opportunity for the major international cement companies to buy into the local cement companies. The Phinma cement business took in Holcim as a 40-percent equity partner in 1998. At about the same time, the three Phinma operating companies were merged in order to bring about more efficiency and less overhead. Also, most of the money put in by Holcim was used to pay corporate debt, resulting in Union Cement having one of the strongest balance sheets in the industry. In other companies, the money paid by the majors went to buy out the existing owners so that the operating companies themselves continued to suffer from high debt.

The partnership with Holcim has been both a pleasant experience and a rewarding one. Union Cement was able to access the cement know-how of Holcim. In any one year, about 50 of our people would visit Holcim installations in different parts of the world to acquire know-how. Holcim has helped find export markets for Union, and the clout of Holcim's buying power has helped Union obtain supplies, parts, and equipment at favorable prices and terms.

After much downsizing and restructuring, Union turned the corner in 2000 and is now on its way to earning reasonable profits and eventually at least 15 percent return on net worth.

Now, the young generation is in the process of taking over and Holcim is expected to play a greater role in the company. I am confident that Union Cement will continue to be successful because the people in place are even better than those in my generation. And they continue to become better.

MAG Albarracin, Ramon del Rosario, and Oscar Hilado



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McCann grabs Agency of the Year award

McCANN Erickson (Phils.) Inc., the country's largest advertising agency, once more bagged the coveted Agency of the Year award given by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4As).

But a smaller agency, Hemisphere-Leo Burnett, makers of the famous "Lolo (Gina and Karen)" of McDonald's, gave McCann a run for its money when it grabbed the Best in Creative award during the 2001 Agency of the Year Awards held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel last Friday evening.

McCann chair Emily Abrera says she was not hopeful about winning the award when Burnett got Best in Creative as the category carries the biggest weight at 30 percent.

Even Leo Burnett managing director Antonio "March" Ventosa admits he felt "they had a very good chance" to win the AOY with the creative award.

"But McCann probably got very, very good scores in all the categories," he says.

McCann won two of the five categories—Best in Management of Business and Best in Leadership and Community Service and Community Service. Leo Burnett also won two—Best in Media and Best in Creative.

Ogilvy and Mather won Best in Market Performance.

Winners for the production houses of the year were Giraffe-X for Print, Hit Productions for radio and Unitel Productions for TV.

The AOY awards started in 1997 and McCann won four times out of its five-year history.

Top exec stops . . .

From page C1

"I've become very jaded about national IT agendas. It's gone through umpteenth revisions—several versions each under the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada administrations. Unlike in Malaysia or Singapore, there's been no political will to allot the funds, create the infrastructure, set up the organizations, etc. Speaking as an industry watcher, it's been quite disappointing," he candidly comments.

In 1984 too, he wrote "The Businessman's Guide to Microcomputers," the reference book at the time on all things PC-related. "The book had to be written for the local business community. SGV Consulting, Bat Endriga's group in particular, to which I belonged, was already touting itself as the foremost local authority in the new technology area, and I was supposedly the firm's chief tech guru," Bing explains.

In 1996, he concurrently took on the CEO position of the Institute of Advanced Computer Technology, or IACT, an Andersen Consulting subsidiary, until he was able to sell it off in 1999. "IACT was a carryover from SGV's IT consulting practice. So it didn't fit Andersen Consulting's global core business model. And I wasn't getting any support from regional or global, so the only practical thing to do was sell it off for as high as I could. It was emotionally difficult to do since I had taught several high-end IACT seminars back in the '80s," he says.

Accenture's roots can be traced as far back as SGV & Co. in 1976 when a handful of senior and junior professionals were hired to start an IT consulting practice. Bing was one of those. The group grew to nearly a hundred by the time the Arthur Andersen & Co. organization was looking for an Asian partner and decided to court SGV, culminating in the 1985 affiliation.

By that time, Bing had just made it to SGV partner, one of the youngest in the firm's history. Two years prior, he had received the SyCip Award from Washington SyCip himself during the firm's annual anniversary celebration, a traditional ceremony that "informally anointed" the future leaders.

"AA was smart—they didn't rock the local practice 'boat' but rather concentrated on gearing up the offshore practice. SGV and AA formally inked the merger in 1985. I remember it clearly because two months after, I was tapped to go to St. Charles, the famed AA 'college' where every employee went to at least once every two years to train, and all the instructors are employees themselves who have taken the course before and have the appropriate experiences to impart to the participants," Bing narrates. "I thought I was asked to study but it turned out I was going there to teach one of the mainline courses! There must have been a mistake, I insisted. It turned out that I was the guinea pig—the AA people in charge of the AA—SGV post-merger integration needed to prove that the Philippine professionals were as good as the rest of the born-and-bred AA world. I did quite well, as the class survey results later indicated and the point was made, but I lost a lot of sleep in that week and a half."

Since then, there had been no looking back for SGV Consulting nee SGV-AA Consulting (1985 to 1991) nee Andersen Consulting (1992 to 1999) nee Accenture (2000 onward). Locally, Andersen Consulting-Accenture clinched the large system integration deals at San Miguel, Unilever, Avon, Matsushita, Jollibee, PLDT, Smart, URC, SSS and other large MNCs and local companies.

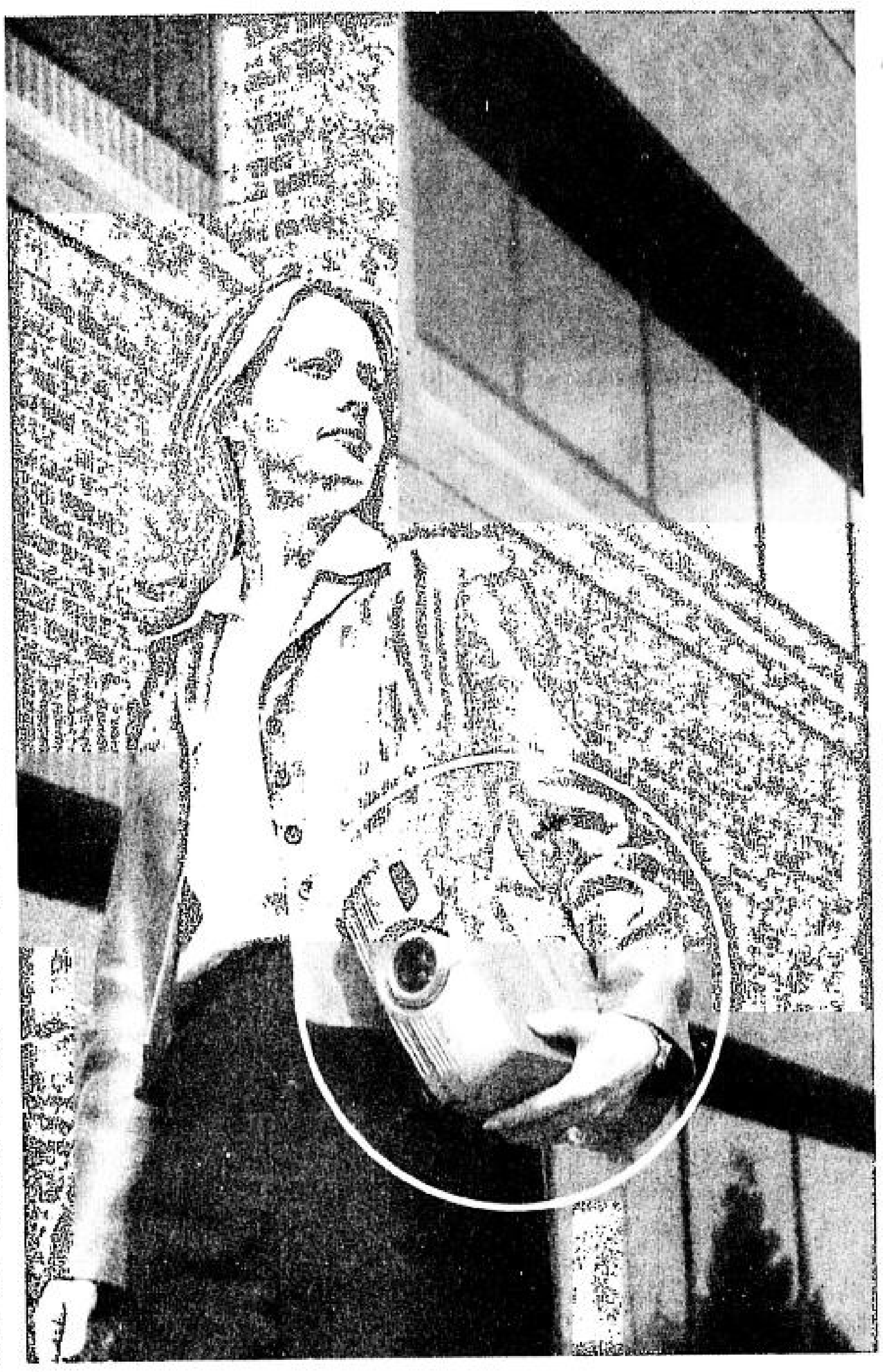
Bing's wife, Elise, was vice president in corporate planning at San Miguel before early retiring in 1998. She is now the president of the PSHS PTA, from where she also graduated and where their two eldest children—Rico, a senior and Cristina, a freshman—now study. A third son, Franco, is still in elementary.

Sister Grace Castano heads J&J Phils. Inc.; other sister Ina Quiogue is the regional marketing head of Avon. A third sister, Patty, is an entrepreneur. Terry is a dentist.

Asked why he decided to retire at 49, Del Rosario states:

"Three reasons. First, I've always said that consulting is a young man's game, especially the type that Accenture does and excels in. Our people grow up with a strong and enviable work ethic; working 14-hour days is not out of the ordinary. We turn hoops and run rings to deliver promised results, and every day is spent proving our value to the client executives. If we're not delivering, we're selling, and in cases where tight deadlines exist, we may rack up more hours preparing a proposal than during project crunch times. I guess that's also the reason why Accenture people tend to be pirated into CIO positions where the job descriptions tend to call for someone typically ten years older—they mature early in their professional lives, racking up five to 10 years worth of job situations and experiences in just 24 months. If you look at Accenture partners all over the world, there are very few partners over 50—the consistent fast pace simply takes its toll after some time. Recognizing this, I had made up my mind when I turned 40 to leave by the time the new millennium came, which was Jan. 1, 2000.

I'm 2-1/2 years off my earlier mark but it's close enough.



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SSS AT 45

Ikaw at ang SSS: Magtulungan Para sa Matatag na Kinabukasan

THE Social Security System celebrated on September 1, 2002 its 45th founding anniversary. The occasion marked a milestone event for the financial institution, particularly since it came at a time when the System is undergoing its most challenging period after an abrupt leadership change in 2001.

CORAZON S. de la Paz
President and CEO

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

Chairman: **Bernardino R. Abes**

Vice-Chairman: **Corazon S. De La Paz**
Ex-officio member/SSS President

Members

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Ex-Officio member
Secretary of Labor and Employment

JUAN C. TAN
(representing labor)

MARIANITA O. MENDOZA
(representing labor)

TERESITA M. ALEGRE
(representing management)

EFREN P. ARANZAMENDEZ
(representing labor)

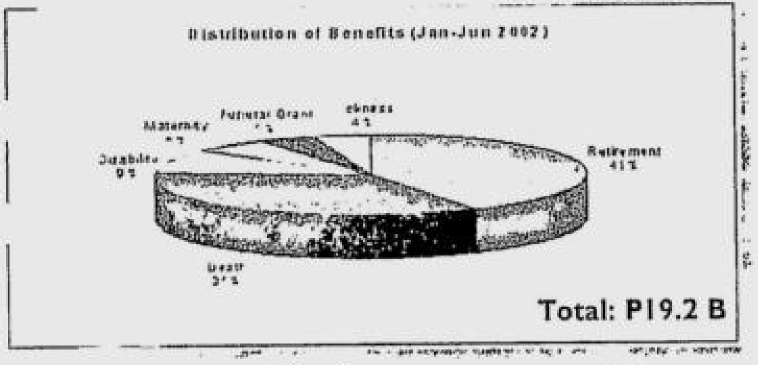
DONALD G. DEE
(representing management

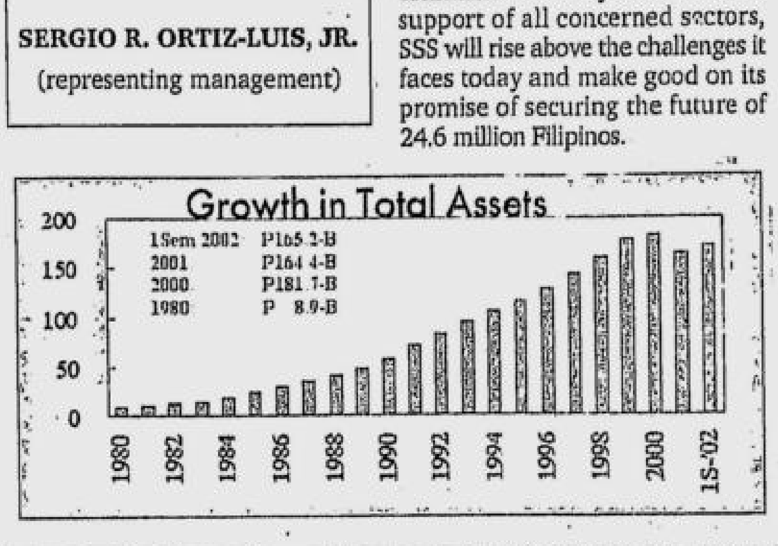
SERGIO R. ORTIZ-LUIS, JR.
(representing management)

The primary threat that faces SSS today is the significant decline in the actuarial life of its fund. Actuarial valuation studies conducted in 1999 project that unless corrective actions are implemented as soon as possible, the SSS fund will run out by 2015. This is a bleak and difficult challenge, but not insurmountable.– especially if SSS, its workforce, members, and the government all lend a helping hand. Thus, this year's Anniversary theme of *"Ikaw at ang SSS: Magtulungan Para sa Matatag na Kinabukasan."* It is a call for assistance and cooperation, an appeal for solidarity in the face of an uncertain future.

From the onset of her assuming the SSS leadership, President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon S. de la Paz has taken on the task of explaining the urgency of the situation to the public and to the various stakeholders of SSS. With the support of the entire SSS workforce, she has been tirelessly communicating the necessity of raising the contribution rate in order to prevent, if not reverse, fund deterioration. While instituting immediate measures to plug the financial drain without sacrificing service to its members, President de la Paz is also spearheading dialogues with national policymakers, business and labor groups, and the SSS membership to gain acceptance of the needed increase in contribution rates.

The SSS has grown tremendously from its beginnings in 1957, in terms of membership coverage, organizational size, membership, and finances. Given its immense breadth, SSS benefit and loan programs have since changed countless lives for the better. The SSS is a constant and enduring entity that its 24.6 million members rely on to get them through bad, and even worse times. Thus, the SSS does not take lightly its mandate of social security protection and service to the public, and it continually works hard to uphold the public's trust and confidence in the System. With the support of all concerned sectors, SSS will rise above the challenges it faces today and make good on its promise of securing the future of 24.6 million Filipinos.





Administrators / President	Term of Office
1. Manuel O. Hizon	June 1955 - September 1956
2. Eleuterio Adevoso	September 1956 - May 1957
3. Rodolfo P. Andal	June 1957 - August 1958
4. Emeterio Roa, Sr.	September 1958 - June 1959
5. Ramon Gaviola, Jr.	June 1959 - January 1962
6. Rene Espina	February 1962 - September 1963
7. Bernardino Abes	September 1963 - June 1965
8. Jovino Lorenzo	June 1965 - December 1965
9. Gilberto Teodoro	January 1966 - March 1986
10. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.	March 1986 - February 1990
11. Renato C. Valencia	February 1990 – June 1998
12. Carlos A. Arellano	July 1998 – January 2001
13. Vitaliano N. Nañagas II	January 2001 – August 2001
14. Corazon S. de la Paz	August 2001 to present

The SSS Mandate

The SSS was established in 1957 primarily to provide a safety net to the workers of the private sector and their beneficiaries against sickness, maternity, death, disability, old age and other uncertainties that result in loss of income or financial burden. This mission is accomplished through two major programs: the Social Security (SS) Program, which provides benefits for workers in times of contingencies, and the Employees' Compensation (EC) Program, which provides benefits for work-related illnesses, deaths or accidents.

The SSS aspires to carry out its mandate by promoting a viable, universal and equitable social security protection scheme through world-class service.

The SSS Through the Years

The idea of a social security scheme for Filipino workers in the private sector began in 1948 when then President Manuel Roxas called for the creation of the Social Security Commission. Based on studies conducted by the Commission, President Elpidio Quirino, Roxas' successor, recommended to Congress in 1949 the establishment of a system that would benefit and protect wage earners and low-salaried employees. As a result, Republic Act No. 1161, establishing the Social Security System (SSS), was passed on June 18, 1954. However, it was fully implemented only after three years, as several amendments to the original legislation were passed.

1957-1960s: The Start-up Years

In 1957, the SSS started with ₱500,000 in seed money, covered 224,156 workers and 1,094 employers and collected a total contribution of ₱6.6 million. By the end of its first year of implementation, the System was able to significantly accumulate assets amounting to ₱6.4 million and pay out ₱75,000 in benefits. It was also in the 1960s when the SSS established its permanent headquarters in Diliman, Quezon City, then later started to put up regional offices across the country.

At the start, the SSS provided pensions for retirement and permanent total disability, and lump sum benefits for death, permanent partial disability, and sickness. In 1964, the housing, salary, and educational loan programs were introduced as part of the benefit entitlements of members.

1970s: The Consolidation Years

On January 1, 1972, the SSS implemented the Philippine Medical Care (Medicare) Act (Republic Act No. 6111) by providing cash payments for the medical, surgical, and hospital expenses to eligible members. In 1973, Medicare was extended to members' dependents. On January 1, 1975, the System carried out the new Employees' Compensation (EC) Program (Executive Order No. 441) by offering benefits and medical services to private sector members who suffer from work-related sickness, disability, or death. The 1970s also saw the System venture into developmental mode by offering small-scale industry loans that focused on export-oriented and employment-generating enterprises in the rural areas.

The SSS continued consolidating its social security program by introducing funeral benefits, survivor's pension, dependent's pension, and later, maternity benefits.

1980s: The Expansion Years

The 1980s ushered in efforts to expand coverage and improve service delivery. On January 1, 1980, through Presidential Decree No. 1636, the SS Law was amended to extend compulsory coverage to certain groups of self-employed persons such as artists, entertainers, proprietors and professionals. Foreign-based employers and diplomatic missions were allowed to register their local employees on a voluntary basis. Under the same decree, the SS Commission was also empowered to effect benefit increases whenever actuarially feasible, subject to the approval of the President.

In line with the expansion of membership coverage, the SSS also expanded the means of collecting contributions and loan repayments by authorizing banks to act as collecting agents. In 1986, the SSS started to decentralize its operations, utilizing appropriate computer technology and systems to support the move.

1990s: The Transformation Years

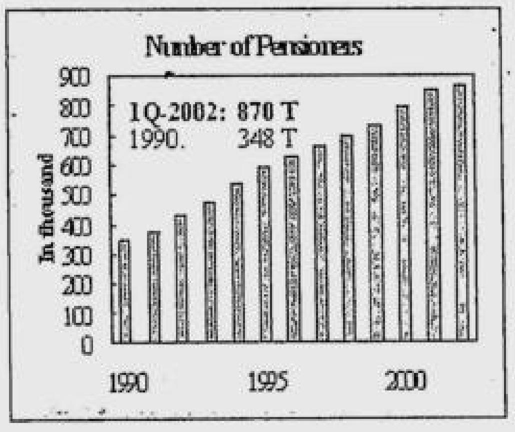
In the 1990s, SSS experienced its most dramatic and phenomenal growth in its entire history. Benefits and pension levels rose significantly, while new loan programs were introduced and existing ones liberalized to meet the members' growing needs. Extending its blanket of protection, the SSS included new groups of workers: farmers and fishermen, household helpers, overseas contract workers, non-working spouses, and practically all self-employed persons (earning at least ₱1,000 a month).

The SSS Reengineering Project was launched with the twin goals of decentralization and computerization. As processes were devolved to the branches, representative offices were upgraded to full-service status, and the most comprehensive and state-of-the-art information technology solutions were adopted.

Two major milestones marked the 1990s. First, the Social Security Act of 1997 (Republic Act 8282) was enacted, which allowed SSS to enhance benefits, expand coverage, and broaden investment alternatives. Another milestone was the transfer of the Medical Care Program stewardship to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), as required by the National Health Insurance Act of 1995. Along with the turnover of Medicare administration to PHIC was the transfer of Medicare funds amounting to ₱14.6 billion.

The 2000s: The Introspection Years

The New Millennium ushered in a series of changes at the SSS that forced the System to re-evaluate its directions and core processes. Starting 2000, the SSS pursued more aggressively its three-pronged thrust to strengthen its financial viability, improve service delivery, and provide more meaningful benefits. Major changes adopted include the increase in the monthly salary credit (MSC) ceiling and the redefinition of credited years of service (CYS). Actuarial studies of the SSS Fund brought to fore the problem of rapid fund depreciation due to demographic changes in SSS membership as well as over-subsidies in the benefits administration. As a result, an advocacy for an increase in members' contribution rate was launched, and cost-control measures were immediately adopted.



Nevertheless, the focus on service delivery never wavered. In 2001, two major programs were launched: the Flexi-Fund for OFWs and the Covenant of Service (COS). The Flexi-Fund is a voluntary savings program for OFWs, while the COS is SSS' commitment to significantly reduce the processing time for benefit claims and loan applications.

Throughout its 45 years of existence, professionals who are highly regarded as pillars of society, effectively led the SSS to greater heights of performance. In their own ways, these Administrators made their own marks in the institution.

SSS Accomplishments:

The SSS has always aspired to pull its members into the sphere of decent living, to enhance its benefits, to improve its services, to employ information technology and to expand social security protection here and abroad. After 45 years, SSS can be proud of its tremendous achievements, but definitely not rest on its laurels.

Membership.

For the first semester of 2002, a 0.5M increase in membership was posted, yielding a total membership of 24.6 million, composed of the following:

Employees (incl. househelpers): 19,566,307
Employers: 658,083
Self-Employed (incl. farmers, fishermen): 3,971,126
Voluntary (incl. OFWs/non-working spouse): 422,054

The new registrants from January to June 2002 are composed of regular employees (57.6%) and self-employed individuals (42.4%) which include farmers and fishermen, expanded self-employed, OFWs and non-working spouse. Pensioners, on the other hand, now total some 870,000.

Assets and Investments.

The investment portfolio of the SSS mirrors the social role played by the institution. As an important partner of the national government in its development efforts, housing accounted for P41.95 billion of SSS' P153 billion-investment portfolio as of December 2001. Equally important, short-term loans, which normally augment the modest income of workers in their times of need, reached P26.43B.

A steady ally of the national government's stabilization program through its massive purchase of government bonds, Treasury notes and bills, as well as through its extension of loans to other government agencies, SSS investments in this sector reached P22.41 billion.

Meanwhile, investments in the private sector reached P54.24 billion of which P41.95 billion were in equities, P7.28 billion in commercial and industrial loans, P5 billion in corporate notes and bonds, and P.01 billion in loans to entrepreneurs. Real estate properties, meanwhile, accounted for P7.97 billion.

The total assets managed by the SSS reached P164.37 billion as of yearend 2001, and this increased to P165.2 billion as of June 2002.

Benefits and Loans Granted.

The SSS has generously given its members 19 increases in their pensions since 1980, without the necessary corresponding increase in the contribution rate. These increases averaged 13.4%.

In 2001, benefit payments of P39.02 billion were given to 1.9 million SSS members including 1,075,932 pensioners. The releases covered retirement, death, disability, maternity, funeral, sickness and (EC) claims.

SSS Pension Growth

Year	Per Cent Increase
1980	20%
1981	20%
1982	20%
1984	15%
1986	20%
1987	20%
[illegible]	20%
1989	15%
1990	15%
1991	15%
[illegible]	10%
1992	10%
1993	10%
[illegible]	10%
1994	[illegible]
1996	10%
1997	8%
1999	10%
2000	10%

For the first half of 2002, SSS released benefits amounting to P19.2 billion as compared to the P17.7 billion released in the same period of 2001, for an increase of 8.5%. Retirement payments continued to account for the bulk of the claims (42%) at P8.03 billion, followed by death (35%) at P6.7 billion; disability at P1.73 billion; maternity at P1.1 billion, funeral grants at P866 million; sickness benefits at P722 million; medical services at P51.65 million and rehabilitation services at P0.6 million.

SSS assistance to its member comes in the form of short-term loans and long-term housing credit. As of June 2002, loan releases reached P6.97 billion, an increase of 58% from the same period of 2001. Of the total loan releases, 84% were for salary loans and 16% for housing loans.

Service Network.

From 10 extension offices in the 1960s, the SSS has expanded to 156 branch offices throughout the Philippines. To enable SSS to reach out to the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), it has opened 18 offices throughout Asia, Europe, Middle East and America. These foreign branch offices are located in Hong Kong; Taipei and Kao-hsiung (Taiwan); Brunei; Singapore; Jeddah, Riyadh and Al-Khobar (Saudi Arabia); Abu-Dhabi (United Arab Emirates); Kuwait; Rome and Milan (Italy); Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); Doha (Qatar); Athens (Greece); Los Angeles and San Francisco (U.S.A.); and Sydney (Australia).

Renewing a Commitment to Service

Members are the lifeblood of SSS' existence – they are the organization's *raison d' etre*. For that reason alone, the men and women of SSS recognize that they must serve members with sincerity, efficiency and compassion. It is this commitment to service that SSS values and strives to uphold, even with the changing of administrations, changing of fortunes, or the passing of the years.

The Covenant of Service (COS)

The Covenant of Service (COS) is SSS' pledge to its members to significantly reduce the processing time for benefit claims and loan applications. Launched in 2001, the COS entails: 1) Quality Service: to render world-class service that is prompt, accurate and courteous; 2) Standardized Policies and Procedures: to adopt and implement uniform policies and streamlined procedures; and 3) Continuous Innovation: to continuously challenge the way things are done and introduce changes when necessary. Under the COS, the SSS commits to the following processing times:

PROCESSING TIME

Program (in working days/add 2 days for transmission of documents)	Pre-COS (before Sept. 2001)	COS Phase 1 (after Dec. 2001)
Salary Loans	15	3
Funeral	7	3-5
Sickness	14	8
Maternity	14	8
Disability	35	20
Retirement	45	15
Death	48	15
Biometric ID Card Issuance	30	10

The SSS is now preparing for the full rollout of the COS and further reducing processing time targets by putting into place additional systems enhancement.

The Biometrics ID Card

A critical factor in successfully meeting the COS targets enumerated above is to use information technology (IT) solutions such as the new biometrics SSS identification card. The new SSS ID is a modern, tamper-proof ID card that uses biometrics technology that can determine the exact identity of the bearer through the card's two-dimensional bar code that contains the member's electronically-captured fingerprint. The SSS has intensified efforts to issue the new biometrics ID cards for free to all members, as this will facilitate transactions starting January 2003. To date, some 3,795,634 members have been issued the biometrics ID cards.

for the Adoption of the SSS Flexi-Fund
to the National Provident Fund for OFWs

Branch Tellering System

To further improve collection and provide convenience to paying members, the SSS will soon set up an automated nationwide branch tellering system wherein nine hub branches and nine selected processing centers outside Metro Manila will be allowed to accept all types of payments and process the payment return forms. This coming September 3, 2002, the tellering system shall be officially launched, with the Tarlac branch as pilot implementor.

Internet-based Inquiry System

The SSS web site (www.sss.gov.ph) has been on-line since 1998 and has served as a role model for other government agencies in fulfilling the country's e-governance initiative by tapping Internet technology for public service. An online Inquiry System will soon be integrated into the SSS web site, through which members can virtually access their membership records. Initially, the inquiry system will provide data concerning membership status, number of paid monthly contributions and loan eligibility. By the fourth quarter of 2002, benefit eligibility and application status will be made available.

Text-SSS Facility

Given the simplicity, convenience, timeliness and low cost of using short messaging service (SMS) – or "text" – it is no wonder that texting is changing the way people keep in touch, do business, even live their lives. SSS will soon launch its own SMS-based information facility, which will provide members with another form of value-added service.

In the short-term, the immediate and pilot application of SMS technology for SSS is an inquiry system on contributions and loans, wherein members can inquire on their number of contributions, loan eligibility, and status of loan applications – all via text messages. In the long-term, SSS is looking into providing more detailed information to members through SMS, such as membership records.

The SSS Flexi-Fund Program

To help OFWs maximize their hard-earned money, the SSS drew up the Flexi-Fund Program in 2001 as an alternative voluntary provident fund that doubles up as savings program to assure them of a better financial future. The Flexi-Fund is tax-free, secure, with guaranteed returns (funds are invested in government-backed treasury bills) and is a significant supplement to existing benefits under the regular SSS programs.

The Flexi-Fund Program now benefits even more OFWs as this has been recently adopted as the National Provident Fund for OFWs by the Department of Labor and Employment. As of May 2002, some 8,300OFWs are enrolled in the Flexi-Fund Program.

DOLE-SSS-PSSA
Social Protection

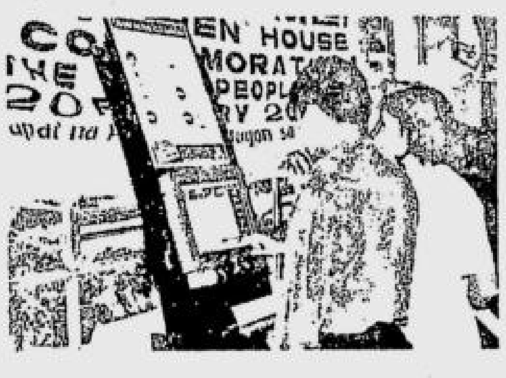
Nurturing a Partnership with Stakeholders

In these challenging times for the System, constant communication and consultation with its stakeholders are keys to gathering agreement and support for the critical decisions that have to be made, particularly with regard to sustaining the System's financial viability.

No less than SSS President and CEO Corazon de la Paz is at the forefront of efforts to meet and reach out to stakeholders to explain the System's precarious situation and possible scenarios if a contribution rate increase is not immediately implemented.

Employers and the Business Community

President de la Paz has met with several employer, professional and business groups to help make them understand the current state of the SSS fund, the implications for its future, and how fund longevity can be assured. Among the groups that President de la Paz met with were the various Rotary Clubs, the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Makati Business Club, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, FINEX, the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, and others.



Retirees and Pensioners

The SSS also values the inputs and concerns of the over 850,000 retirees and pensioners, especially since these members are now enjoying the fruits of their long years of labor and contributions to the System. In the spirit of transparency, President de la Paz met with groups such as the Philippine Association of Retired Persons, and the Baguio-Benguet Association of Retirees and Pensioners, to discuss the state of the SSS fund and how this would affect pensioners.

HON. EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA Cong.
PHILIPPINE ASSN. OF RETIRE
SEPT. 30 2001 at
TO THE 2nd GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ME

Labor Groups

Labor and trade union groups are recognized partners of SSS in providing protection to workers. Thus, President de la Paz has always kept her lines of communication open to their opinions and views, particularly on the efforts of SSS to sustain fund viability through the proposed increase in contribution rates or revised guidelines on loan availments.

Other Government Agencies

The SSS works hand-in-hand with other government agencies to maximize efficiency and ensure convenience for the public. This year, SSS signed several partnership agreements with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) involving the adoption of the SSS Flexi-Fund as the national provident fund for OFWs, the coverage drive among workers in the informal sector, and the offering of micro-credit facilities for cooperatives and small enterprises. Meanwhile, through a strengthened MOA with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), employers seeking new or renewed business permits must get clearance from SSS certifying their membership and regular remittance of their employees' contributions. SSS also partners with the Pag-IBIG Fund and the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corporation in supporting government's mass housing program by making available low-interest housing loan facilities. There is also a continuing partnership with the Philippine National Police in which the new SSS ID Cards are made a requirement for all security personnel.

Academic and Art Communities

Aside from the SSS President and top officials addressing students during formal commencement programs and career talks, the SSS reaches out to the academic community through job fairs and other fora on social security issues. In the first half of 2002, SSS participated in 17 university/college-based jobs fairs wherein some 4,400 graduating students registered for membership and were informed of SSS programs and benefits. As part of its information drive among the youth, the SSS will organize a symposium on social security among business and communication students at the University of Santo Tomas on September 3, 2002.

A Hallmark of a Strong Institution

During the State of the Nation address last July 22, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo pledged to build the Philippines into a "strong Republic." Like her vision, SSS is committed to become a strong institution – tested by time, tempered by commitment, and sustained by the faith that its mandate will never go for naught. Like an edifice that is made stronger by adding fine stones to its foundation, the SSS will endeavor to be stronger, more viable, and better prepared to face the challenges of social security in the years to come. President Macapagal-Arroyo believes that a strong Republic takes care of the people by taking care of their future. For SSS, under the stewardship of President Corazon S. de la Paz, it needs to be a strong institution to take care of its members and their future. Without it, social justice is nothing but a phrase in a paper of dreams.

Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph
Email: sssmail@info.com.ph

Getting the most out of your SSS membership

THE CURRENT SSS membership stands at 24.6 million, composed of employers, employees, self-employed individuals and voluntary members. It is a fact, however, that out of this number, only 30% or roughly 8 million are actively contributing to the Fund. The rest have either temporarily suspended their contributions, or stopped altogether. This does not mean however, that SSS has discontinued providing these inactive members with the regular benefit and loan programs. In fact, they can still avail of SSS benefits and loans, albeit at a much lower rate and minus the penalties for delinquencies.

Although it seems that inactive members are getting "something for nothing," the situation is eventually unfavorable to them. This is because when pressing financial needs arise, their applications for loans or benefits will most likely be rejected (or the amounts reduced) due to gaps in their contributions or defaults in their loan repayment. Such an incongruous situation also does not bode well for the System, as it causes over-subsidies in benefit administration, which results to a heavy outflow of precious financial resources, with less or no returns at all.

Thus, in order to get the most out of SSS membership, it truly pays to be updated in contributions and to avoid defaults in loan repayments. In addition, by contributing over and above the minimum amount required, members stand to gain a higher level of benefits and loanable amounts.

To prove these points, what follows are actual cases of SSS members who availed of their due benefits and loans, and how their contribution levels, monthly salary credits and length of membership eventually paid off in terms of the amounts they received from SSS. Names have been changed to protect the confidentiality of their identities.

Case 1: The Timely Salary Loan

Melody Calma began her SSS coverage in 1997 and by June 2002, had been credited with 66 continuous monthly contributions. For the last 12 months, her monthly salary credit (MSC) was at P11, 000. Last July 2, 2002, she filed an application for a Salary Loan with the SSS for the first time. By July 9, a PNB check in the amount of P20,880 (P22,000 less advance interest) was ready for her, just in time for the educational needs of her siblings.

What highlights this case is the fact that when members are up-to-date in their contributions, with no gaps in between, processing of their loan applications is undoubtedly speeded up. Moreover, when their MSC is at the maximum level, they can avail of higher loanable amounts. In Melody's case, because her MSC was at P11,000 (and not at the maximum P15,000), she was only allowed a one-month loan. Nevertheless, her salary loan of P11,000 will go a long way in immediately responding to her financial needs.

Case 2: The Rewards of Retirement

Rodrigo Castillejo retired at the age of 60 last June 5, 2002. With 28 creditable years of service, he had 320 monthly contributions to his name. However, due to some period of disability, there were some gaps in his contribution records. Last June 11, 2002, he filed an application for Retirement/Pension Benefits at SSS-Quezon City. On June 20, his retirement/pension benefit was approved, and he was granted a monthly pension of P2,640, including P264 per month for each of his three minor dependents.

In Rodrigo's case, the rewards of his retirement from active employment are his secured pension for the rest of his life, as well as some amount for his minor dependents. The fact that his supporting documents were complete and in order, greatly helped in the immediate processing of his retirement benefits. Now, he can look forward to more carefree days as an SSS pensioner.

Case 3: In Sickness and in Health

Last April 29, 2002, Leonardo Llamas fell seriously ill which required a lengthy hospital confinement period. On May 22, a relative filed, on Leonardo's behalf, an application for SSS Sickness Benefit, claiming the maximum sickness period of 120 days. As of this writing, Leonardo has still yet to recover from his illness, but last July 9, a check in the amount of P23,700 was issued by SSS as his Sickness Benefit. He could have gotten much more if only his monthly contributions were in uniform amounts and his monthly salary credit higher than P6,500. Still, with 80 contributions to his name, he was eligible to receive P197.50 a day for 120 sick days, which would hopefully help him towards the road to recovery.

In sickness and in health, the SSS will be around to help members like Leonardo. But to get the most of SSS membership benefits, the member must be willing and able to contribute regularly and at higher levels, when possible.

Social Security for the common worker

MANG Jose Apalit has lived a harsh life. As a vendor plying his plastic wares along the sidewalks of Cubao, Mang Jose has not known much comfort in his 32 years. His meager income is often just barely enough to feed and clothe his wife and two-year old child, who live in a cramped shack in the squatter's area near East Avenue. They are not strangers to hunger or sickness either, as their squalid living conditions often expose them to innumerable health risks.

But Mang Jose has a dream: to eventually rise above their poverty and have a better life –not exactly rich, but at least comfortable. He knows however that mere wishing can not fulfill that dream, so he is working himself to the bone just to save enough money for the future. "*Kung may isinuksok, may madudukot*" – that is Mang Jose's firm belief. Thus, the P5-P10 that he manages to drop into his milk-can alkansiya at the end of every day is his own safety net in times of emergencies.

Sidewalk vendors like Mang Jose, watch-your-car boys, tricycle and pedicab drivers, even hospitality workers – all these low-profile members of society collectively belonging to the "Informal Sector" – now have a clear path towards their dreams of a better life, thanks to the Social Security System.

This year, the SSS has partnered with the Department of Labor and Employment in setting up a mechanism whereby informal sector (IS) workers like Mang Jose can join the SSS as regular contributing members and avail of its programs and benefits. As long as these individuals earn at least P1,000 a month, they can now register for SSS coverage. This move came about in response to the government's directive to enhance the informal sector's productivity and to ensure the protection of its workers in terms of social security and social justice.

But even if they earn at least P1,000 a month, how could IS workers manage to actually set aside at least P84 a month for their SSS contributions, without succumbing to the temptation of using these scanty savings when other needs arise? What if the milk-can *alkansiya* gets lost?

This is where banks such as the Philippine Savings Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines come in. In partnership with SSS and DOLE, these banks now allow IS workers to open a savings account wherein they will accumulate minimal daily savings with no bank service fees charged. However, they may not withdraw from their savings accounts until they are able to set aside their SSS contributions for the month. Through an automatic debit arrangement, the banks will then remit the IS workers' contributions to SSS. Membership of IS workers takes effect upon remittance of their first contribution and they will be entitled to receive the regular SSS benefits and loan privileges upon gathering creditable years of service.

Now, workers like Mang Jose can more than just dream on – they can actually make their dreams come true.

As the SSS celebrates its 45th anniversary, it continues to improve on its drive to expand its membership to cover all Filipinos from all walks of life, and truly become the social protection provider for all.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Wider space spells big difference for stores at Festival Supermall

SPACE—huge space to be precise—is distinct competitive advantage a shopping mall can offer to both its tenants and patrons. For shoppers, nothing beats the ultimate convenience of finding everything they need under one setting—dining venues, amusement and entertainment facilities, specialty shops and service outlets and branded superstores. The biggest mall in the US, including the Mall of America, even provide large areas for gardens and other "breathing" spaces.

In the local retail scene, Festival Supermall belongs to this category. Located in the sprawling Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Festival Supermall offers a myriad of shopping, fun and adventure on 200,000 square meters of total floor area. Over 400 named outlets and brands give shoppers of varied lifestyles and inclinations the widest choices in products and services.

Little wonder that Festival Supermall is home to five well-known local and international superstores in the country, which counts among the reasons Festival Mall has earned a reputation as a shopper's paradise.

With the huge space at their disposal, superstores hold an equally powerful position to introduce innovations to their usual marketing and customer service approaches. A spacious area allows for eating, product testing, espresso or juice bars, and other amenities that offer a more relaxed shopping atmosphere.

For two years now, IT customers have found Challenger Computer Superstore their most dependable ally when it comes to quality and up-to-date IT products and services. The one-stop computer shop offers a wide variety of computer hardware and accessories, software, printers, inks, modems, communication devices and other automated or electronic devices at competititve prices.

Occupying an area of almost 700 sq. m at the Festival, Challenger is an independent division of Columbia Computer International Corp., the country's top provider of computer products and other IT devices.

"Our customers are guaranteed of excellent customer and repair service by our highly trained staff and technicians," says Challenger director Sonny Ong. "After identifying their problem or need, we offer thorough assessment and solutions. We consider patience and listening to our customers our major business strengths."

At Challenger, customers can also enjoy repairs of computer parts and other services, whether these are covered by warranty or not. And while they're waiting, they can surf the Web or enjoy light snacks at Challeger's Internet Café.

MARCONI
ITALIAN FASHION STOCKHOUSE

HELP CHILDREN VIA GLOBE, TOUCH MOBILE

Ayala Corp. launches once more Children's Hour, a global fund-raising campaign dedicated to creating programs for the welfare of today's youth. Children's Hour was first successfully launched in 1999 when it raised P40 million, benefiting 88,000 children and 32 youth centers and hospitals. Globe Telecom emerged that year as the program's biggest company donor with its donation of P1.26 million. Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers can start donating to Children's Hour by keying in REG<space>subscriber's name<space>subscriber's address and then send to 2303. Globe will also be giving away free phone kits to lucky texters. Shown is Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. presenting Globe's 'Txt 4 D Children' campaign in support of Children's Hour. Looking on are, from left, Corazon Aquino, Children's Hour steering committee honorary chair, ABS-CBN Foundation's Gina Lopez, vice chair, and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, chair.

Merck & Co. tops pharmaceutical firms in Fortune Global 500 list

GLOBAL research-based pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. Inc. led 13 of the world's pharmaceutical companies in the Fortune 2002 Global 500, a prestigious annual ranking of the world's 500 largest corporations conducted by renowned business publication, Fortune Magazine.

The company posted improvements in revenues in the year 2001 to emerge first in revenues among the 13 global pharmaceutical companies which made the Global 500 list. Overall, Merck ranked No. 62 on the Global 500 list for 2001, improving on its No. 88 position in 2000.

In its report in the July 22 issue, Fortune Magazine reported that "change is a constant in the Global 500. In 1995 when Fortune first published a combined list of the world's largest industrial and service companies, the four biggest companies on the list were Japanese, followed by US and Europe. This year only one Japanese company makes the cut. There are three European companies and six from the US. In a reversal of fortune, the top three positions are held by American firms."

Fortune cited that "for now, at least the lesson of the Global 500 is that what Fortune founder Henry Luce called the American century has lingered into the new millennium. Of course, as the last eight years have demonstrated, things can change fast."

In the Philippines, Merck operates through its branch Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSI) and has been improving the health and well-being of Filipinos by providing Filipino patients with breakthrough medicines, disease information, innovative services and health management programs.

Plai forum at Megamall

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc (Plai) invites the public to a half-day forum titled "New Initiative for the Total Quality Librarians" to be held at SM Megamall Megatrade Hall B Function room on Sept. 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The resource speaker is Dr. Henry Galuba of St. Louis University, Baguio City. For further inquiries, call Nora Conti at 526-8295, fax 525-0432, Emma Rey at 931-5864, telefax 951-4322, or Shirley Nava at telefax 524-9740.

SBC ALUMNI LAUNCHES 'CIRCULOS'

The San Beda College Alumni Association and San Beda College Alumni Foundation recently called on Rev. Anscar J. Chupungco, rector of San Beda College. Father Rector's giving the school blessings on the launching of the 'Circulos de San Bedistas' highlighted the visit. The alumni-initiated project will honor Bedan Alumni who have provided substantial financial resources for the benefit of San Beda College and its alumni via wall tablets situated within the school's premises. Interested alumnus can call the Alumni secretariat at 735-5995 for more details. Shown are, from left, Billy Ong Hua Chiong, treasurer, Gabriel P. Mathay, director Nicholas O. Carranceja, president of the San Beda Alumni Association, Fr. Chupungco OSB, Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, president, and Edgardo B. Favila, treasurer of the San Beda Alumni Foundation.

Clips

Master's completed

AGNES Ronda Cawai completed her Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Sacred Heart University May 18. She is a member of the Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society of MBA. Agnes, a Three Gold Star graduate of the College of the Holy Spirit, went to the United States to further her studies. She took up a business administration course at the Sacred Heart University, where she graduated top of the Dean's List. While being employed by Lamont and Burns, she continued to attend night classes for her Master's. Agnes is the youngest of Tony and Lourdes Cawai of Kayumanggi Street, West Triangle Homes, Quezon City.

Architecture exam placer

ARCHITECT Julia Sandra L. Uy, recently placed 2nd at the board examination for architecture in June. She is the second daughter of engineer Joey and Julie Uy. Julia completed grade school and high school at the Immaculate Conception Academy in Greenhills and graduated in 1996 at the top 10 of her class. She then graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines in 2001. She took her professional oaths Aug. 10 at the Ramada Hotel.

Batangas HS '53 reunion

THE BATANGAS High School Class of 1953 will hold its golden jubilee reunion on April 19, 2003 at the school grounds. The affair will start with the celebration of the Holy Mass at 7 a.m. Registration immediately follows. The jubilarians will likewise hold a motorcade from the campus to the Batangas Sports Complex, where all the activities will be held. All members of Class '53 are encouraged to attend. For more details, call (for Batangas-based graduates) Flor Abuzman at 727-1443 and Dr. Elisa Baliwag at 402-3552. For Metro Manila-based alumni, call Judge Prescilla Mijares at 927-3384, lawyer Prony Caedo at 821-3552, and Pablo Cueto at 924-5879.

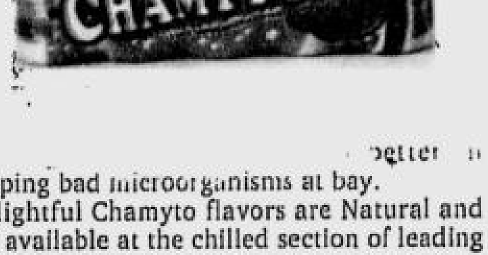
Product FILES

The appeal of apple

WHAT do Adam, Isaac Newton, and Snow White have in common? Their stories are inextricably linked to that sweet fruit which keeps docs away when eaten everyday—the apple.

People have been sinking their teeth into apples for thousands of years. Young and old alike love the delicious, wholesome goodness of apples and enjoy the fruit's many reincarnations—apple pies, apple juices, apple-flavored candies. Kids not only take a bite of the apple, even their computers are named after the fruit. And let's not forget New York, the city nicknamed "Big Apple".

Now, even your favorite Nestle Chamyto tastes like apple. The drink in a little magic bottle that keeps tummy troubles away now comes in a fun apple flavor everyone in the family will love. New Nestle Chamyto Apple has a sweet fruity flavor that will appeal to kids and adults, plus friendl better estinal walls, keeping bad microorganisms at bay.



Other equally delightful Chamyto flavors are Natural and Orange. Chamyto is available at the chilled section of leading grocery outlets and convenience stores nationwide.

CITIBANK AWARDS INSTALLMENT LOAN WINNERS

Citibank recently gave away P100,000 in cash prizes to customers who availed themselves of its new loan product—the Citibank Installment Loan Promo. Five winners won P20,000 each simply by applying for the loan during the promo period. Shown are, from left, Citibank product manager Gen Bermejo, winners Benjamin Nana, Juvy Iral, Mario Sangel (representative), Sylvia Tamayo (representative), and Mary Grace Zafra, and Noemi Azura, Citibank business director for consumer loans. A multipurpose loan, Citibank Installment Loan can be tapped for any and all type of expenses—be it for business, home or car repair, tuition expenses and more. One can borrow s little as P15,000 to a high of P1 million, and pay for as long as 36 months. Requiring no collateral, co-maker, deposit, or post-dated checks, the Citibank Installment Loan is the most hassle-free loan product in the market today with an application processing time of as short as seven days.

APEC TEL E-COMMERCE
SKILLS STANDARDS PROJECT MEETING

APEC TEL E-COMMERCE MEET AT TRADER'S HOTEL

The 1st Apec TEL E-Commerce Skills Standards Project Meeting was held at the Trader's Hotel Aug. 8 and 9. Shown seated, from left, are Saisamorn Naklada (Thailand), Eloisa Tinio, chief academic officer, STI, Belinda Smith, director of SCA (Australia) and Apec facilitator, Mary Anne D. Tolentino, president of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society and BPI assistant vice president, Janette Toral of Digitalfilipino.com and organizer of the event, Soraphong Naklada (Thailand), Zhou Weiquan (China), and Andromeda Tristanto (Indonesia). Standing, from left, are Lito Reyes of TIS Solutions, Jay Bataclan of Infinite Technologies, Thusanai Piarabutr (Thailand), Johnny Gonzales of UP Open University, Tinnakorn Itsrangkul Na Ayuthaya (Thailand), Leo Van Neuren, national executive officer of IT & Titab and Apec facilitator, Kennedy Co, managing director, Aptech Worldwide, Antonio Gianan, president of Catanduanes College, Jaime Caro PhD of the department of computer science of UP, Vic Magdaraog, VP of SGV-DDI and treasurer of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society, and Roger Chua, president of Web Philippines.

Broadcaster bids TV adieu, says hello to cars

TO TELEVIEWERS, he is the bespectacled GMA 7 broadcaster who delivers the hourly newsbreak and the early news advisories for Unang Hirit.

But when the camera's not rolling, Martin Andanar devotes all his time to his first love—cars.

Andanar manages Genspeed, his own firm that specializes in car painting. Shortly after he became a GMA reporter in 1999, Martin has been juggling his time between newscasting and meeting clients' need for quality car care services.

The 27-year-old businessman studied at the University of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia. After graduating in 1998, Martin moved to the Philippines and worked as reporter for dzBB and later on for GMA News.

He decided to bid newscasting goodbye to concentrate on his fledgling business. The move is (hopefully) temporary, he says.

"Viewers won't see me on TV maybe for some time. It all depends on how my business will grow. So far it's picking up in spite of the economy," Martin shares.

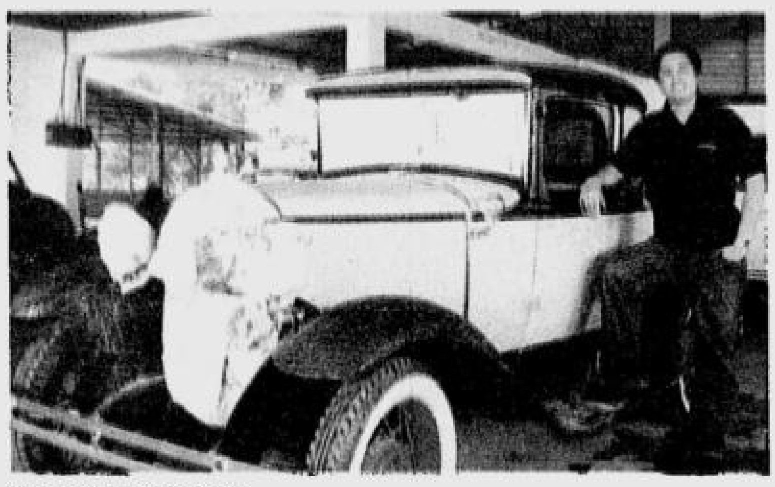
Martin has been into cars or "anything with wheels" as far as he can remember. As a child, he used to collect tiny replicas of wheeled vehicles. He first made his own money by assembling bicycles and selling them. His first car was a Mitsubishi Sigma, which he bought for $2,000, the money he earned from working as a waiter in a posh restaurant in Australia.

"When I arrived here from Australia, I realized that the after-market auto industry here is so big, a multimillion business. I looked around and saw a lot of small talyers which are not really presentable and not capable of delivering quality service," Martin says.

This observation inspired him to set up his own shop. With a friend, he set up Genspeed in 1999. He eventually managed the 1,000-square-meter shop on his own. Martin supervises 30 people. His shop offers car painting, mechanical, air-con and other car services. Martin's company has been joining and sweeping major awards in local car shows.

Dirtied hands

Martin literally gets his hands dirty." Nobody is a general manager here. I believe in giving my people the freedom and the space to move around. I am not the type of boss who watches over their shoulders. As long as they get things done that's fine with me."


MARTIN ANDANAR

For instance, these past few weeks, Martin and his team are busy working on a 73-year-old 1929 Model A Ford, taking each and every part apart, cleaning them and putting them back gingerly into the car. This classic baby, owned by Col. Godofredo Olores, will be an entry to the Motorshow International 2002, the country's biggest and longest-running auto and cycle show managed by the Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (PETCO), slated on Oct. 2-6 at the World Trade Center. His group is doing some paint and parts refurbishing to put this classic in "showroom condition," working round-the-clock to breathe new life into the car.

The vehicle will be competing in the "Best in Vintage Car" and "Best In Show" categories. Motorshow 2002 is supported by the Department of Transportation and Communications, Metro Manila Development Authority; Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board, Land Transportation Office, and Automobile Association of the Philippines.

MOVEMENTS

Yuchengco chairs ABA

AMBASSADOR Alfonso T. Yuchengco, honorary chairman of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation and head of a Philippine-based regional conglomerate that bears his name, will assume the chairmanship of the Asian Bankers Association during its 19th general meeting in Seoul, Korea on September 2-4.

Ambassador Yuchengco takes over from Dr. Yung San Lee, finance minister of the Republic China (Taiwan) and former chairman of the International Commercial Bank of China.

Focus of interest in the forthcoming meeting is the proposed Basle Capital Accord, implementation of which will have a major impact on the banking sector.

Eastern Telecom names COO

IN their bid to be a major force in the telecommunications and Internet industry, Eastern Telecommunications Phils. Inc. announced the appointment of Romeo B. Bachoco as the new chief operating officer.

Bachoco is a certified public accountant and a graduate of Accountancy at the University of the Philippines, Visayas. Prior to joining Eastern Telecom, he was senior vice president and chief financial officer of a cable television company.

He spent 12 years in overseas postings in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia and the United States handling corporate finance, controllership and business development for several companies in the television and cable industries.

Hotel names new manager

DAVID Batchelor, general manager of The Peninsula Manila, announced the appointment of Hans Hordijk as resident manager.

Hordijk began his hotel career with the London Hilton on Parklane in 1989, and moved to The Dorchester Hotel in 1991.

He joined The Peninsula Group in 1995, occupying several senior posts including executive assistant manager, in charge of food and beverage at The Peninsula Bangkok in Thailand; food and beverage manager at The Peninsula Hong Kong and assistant food and beverage manager at The Palace Hotel Beijing in China.

Hordijk holds a degree in hotel management from the Hotel School, The Hague, Netherlands. He is a Dutch national.

Tupperware's new execs

Tupperware Asia-Pacific president Steve Kroos recently announced the appointment of outgoing Tupperware president and managing director Corito G. Singson to global market development director of Tupperware Worldwide in Orlando, Florida, and of its incoming president and managing director of Tupperware Philippines, Gregory S. Voyik, who also holds the position of regional vice-president, Asia- Pacific.

Voyik, an American by birth, brings to Tupperware Philippines 20 years of experience at various Tupperware positions. He started as a franchised distributor and then held various positions on corporate staff at Tupperware worldwide headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

His background includes positions in training, operations and sales. His international experience includes having helped develop the new market in China, served as general manager for China and Hong Kong, and provided support to Asia-Pacific markets on various special projects.

Meanwhile, Singson has relocated to the United States and will be responsible for sales development of Tupperware's emerging and new markets such as India, China and Eastern Europe, among others.

Singson has been with Tupperware Philippines for 10 years and was the first Filipino and woman to serve as president of Tupperware Philippines. During her stint, Tupperware Philippines was honored as the Turn-Around Achievement Country in 1998 among the 80 established Tupperware countries worldwide.

MOL names president

MITSUI O.S.K. Lines Phils. recently announced the promotion of Cesar G. Tiutan as president.

A joint venture between MOL, a major Tokyo-based shipping company and Magsaysay Maritime Inc., MOL Phils. was established five years ago, after operating in the Philippines through agents.

MOL Phils. is now the leader in the containerized Philippines-Europe trade and a major player in the country's North America trade.

Tiutan comes to the position armed with almost 30 years of shipping and transportation experience. He was president and part-owner of a major multinational logistics and forwarding firm before joining MOL in January this year.

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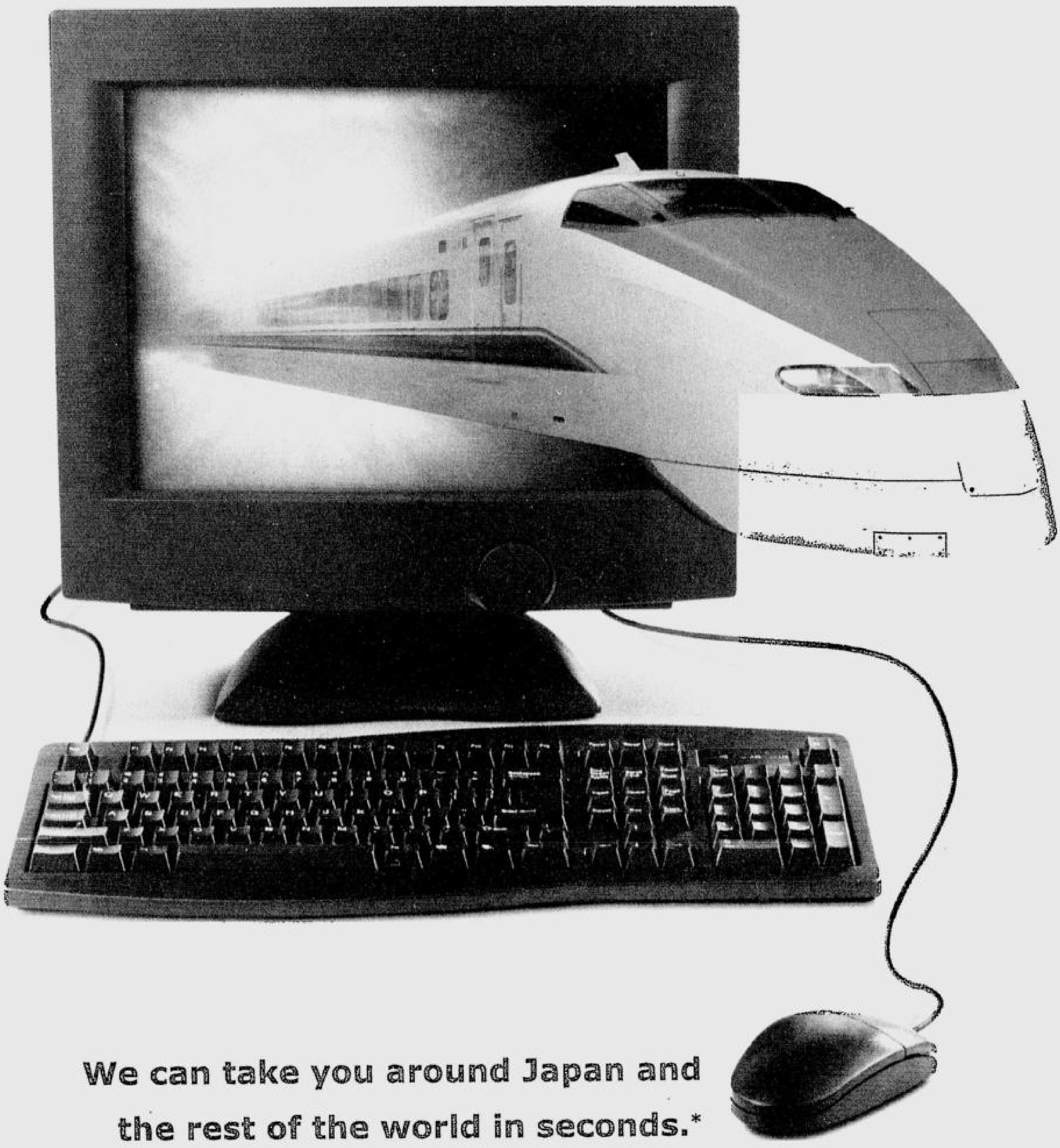

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LIFESTYLE

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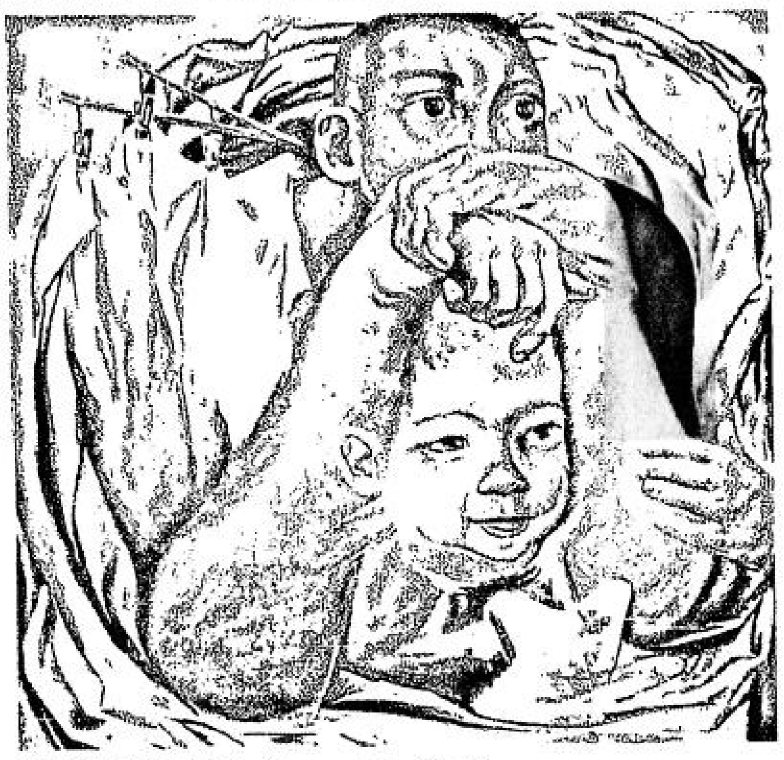

"PAGKABAHALA," oil on canvas, 4' x 4' or 122 cm x 122 cm, 2001

Angelic work of art

Long without a child, artists Federico Sievert and Grace de Jesus got what they wanted with a little prayer

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

HE WAS some kind of miracle baby.

For eight years, visual artists Federico F. Sievert and Grace de Jesus, who were campus sweethearts during their fine arts day at the University of Santo Tomas, tried, but failed to have a child.

For a long time, Grace had suffered "excruciating pain" during her monthly period, necessitating heavy doses of an analgesic.

Siev and his wife had all but given up hope that she would conceive. After all, eight years of waiting is a long time.

Then, early in 1999, something unusual happened. Upon using a pregnancy test kit, Grace discovered that her urine had formed parallel lines and turned red. "I'm positive,"

ANGELIC/ p.D7

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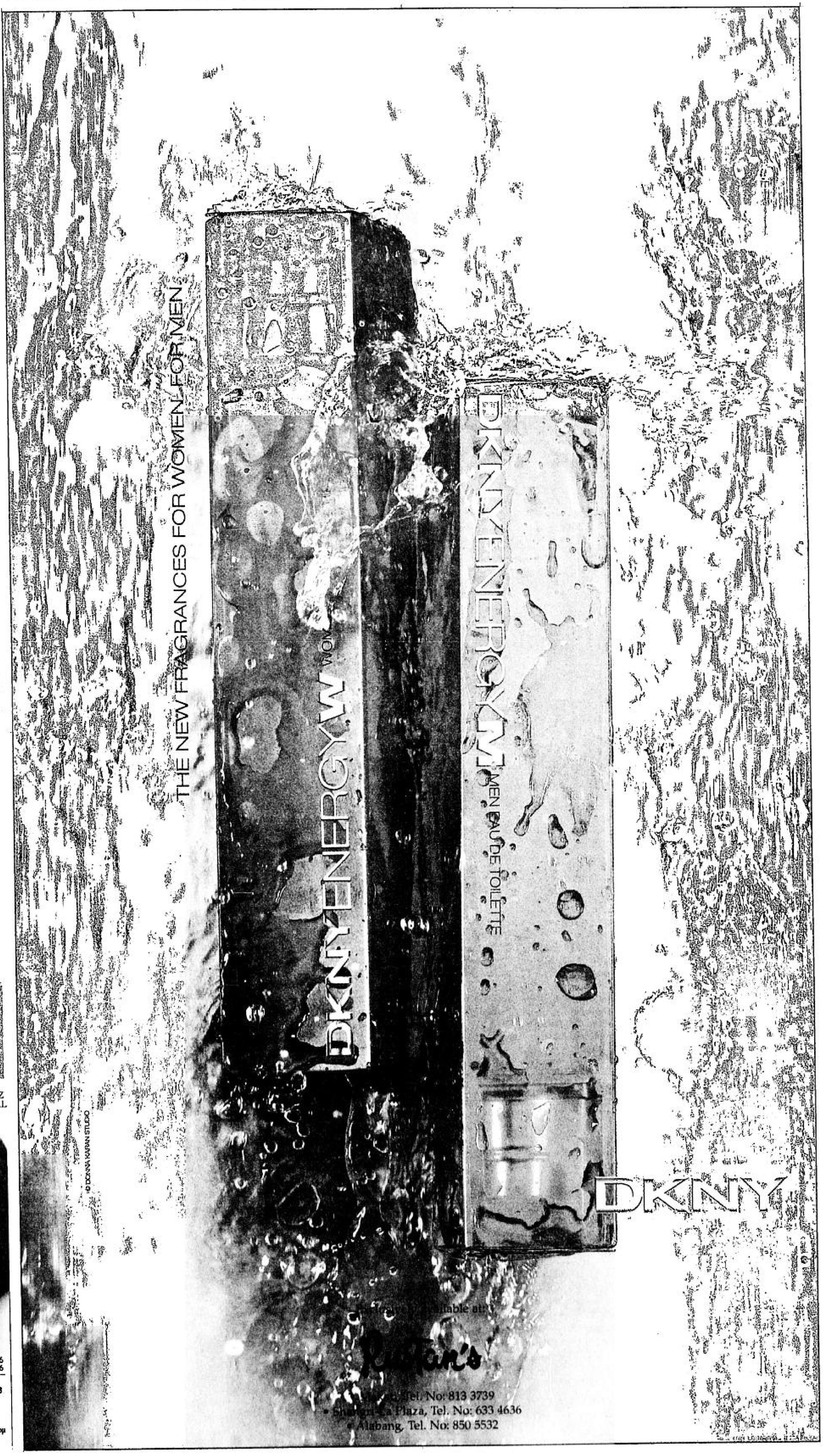
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Childhood lessons in 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,' blighted social reality in 'Insiang'

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

REVIEWS

TWO recent theater productions come from opposite sides of the pole—the first is a family-friendly fantasy with religious overtones, the second is a "for adults only" heartbreaker set in the slums of the urban poor.

It's the third time around for Trumpets' production of the beloved C.S. Lewis classic, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." The production design that had won earlier raves gets a grander refurbishing, a new set of children plays off against the veterans, and the storyline and script (written by Luna Inocian and director Jaime del Mundo) remain pretty much intact.

Seeing the old regulars go through their familiar roles (Audie Gemora as Aslan the Lion King, Steve Cadd as the genial uncle Professor Kirke, Bonggoy Manahan as Father Christmas and Carlo Orosa as Mr. Tumnus, among others), it's all too clear that this production has polished its act. Everyone knows his or her character and lines by now. Despite the change in blocking that the new stage has brought about, the timing and pace in every scene is clean and up to speed. There are also a few perhaps inadvertent scene-stealers, like Enchang Kaimo's stiffly proper housekeeper horrified at the intrusion of four rowdy kids into her home.

This new quartet of young actors gives the most moving performances among its many incarnations.

As the knight-in-training Peter, Paolo Valenciano infuses gallantry into his role, and sometimes, he's just too noble to be true.

Camille Cabrera as the elderly girl Susan is one child actress to watch out for in the future. Aside from a wonderful singing voice that flows with warmth and courage, her strong presence makes her right at home on the stage.

ASLAN (Audie Gemora), Susan (Camille Cabrera) and Lucy (Moreen Guese) dance joyfully with the good Narnians in "The Lion..."

As the two younger kids, Sam Concepcion and Moreen Guese are naturals; there is none of the coyness and cutesy playing expected from actors their age. Concepcion, in particular, is believable as the young spoiled brat who'd break the rules and betray his siblings for a piece of cake. He's like that youngest attention-getting kid in the house who's always told the rules a hundred times, and gets spanked or pinched for not obeying.

Mio Infante's production design, the other unnamed star of the show, is properly integrated into the story of war, betrayal and redemption. One charm of the early "Lion" incarnations was the ingenuity with which the sets and costumes delivered magic on a limited budget. To herald the coming of spring, the white carpet that made a wintry landscape was rolled down to reveal greens and gardens. The miraculous Wardrobe that opened to the world of Narnia was a mere 6-ft moving box set amid a panel that rolled up and down.

In this production, Infante created a cloistered world that occupies the whole stage, similar to his undersea kingdom in last year's "The Little Mermaid." A circular platform on top of a small lower stage brings the characters to their next scenes and propelled the action. Encompassing the stage, this platform begins as a bleak and cold contraption, its snowy demeanor aptly cloaking the White Witch (Carla Martinez) and her cohorts with the apt pall and gloom.

Then later on, with many a change in gear and turn of wheel, the stage transforms right before the audience's eyes into a rainbow land where talking animals, dancing fauns and vibrant mythical creatures thrive.

'Insiang'

There's no magic in Insiang's dark world, superbly created in vivid, if disturbing, detail by Bobot Lota. In Tanghalang Pilipino's theatrical translation of the film classic, the lass wakes up every day in a prison of tin roof and iron metal, dripping water, scandalously loud radios, macho men who want nothing more than to bed their women, and prostitutes who'd be happy to accommodate them.

The audience can literally touch and feel this generally invisible part of society. Director Chris Millado pushed the audience seats right into center stage. The stage proper is one labyrinth of wooden planks that connect from the entrance door to the upper stage. Characters walk and act from the theater entrance, passing the audience seated nearby, right to the panels that open up to become a *sari-sari* store, a hovel and a kitchen-cum-bedroom. Somewhere in the middle is a *labahan* where the lead roles wash their clothes and transact their business for the day.

If the setting is too real for comfort, so are the characters. Mario O'Hara, the scriptwriter of the Lino Brocka film on which this stage play is based, not only succeeds in translating his screen men and women into the theater—he also gives them back stories that make their actions understandable, if not sympathetic.

PROFESSOR Kirke (Steve Cadd in glasses) with Peter (Paolo Valenciano), Edmund (Sam Concepcion), Susan (Camille Cabrera) and Lucy (Moreen Guese)

Ricky Davao preens and muscles his way around as Dado, the king of the jungle who kills men and screws women—but his confession of love for Insiang rings true. You'd believe it when he says that, after innumerable conquests, he has finally found the love of his life in his 16-year-old stepdaughter whom he has seduced and raped.

Malou de Guzman as the cold, sarcastic, brutal mother radiates the insecurities and rage of a woman afraid that she's past her prime.

Even in his few scenes, Roeder Camanag as Bong, Insiang's dead father, projects a decent, good man forced to live in squalor and suffer his wife's infidelities.

Taking the top prize, though, is 18-year-old Sheenly Vee Gener who debuts as Insiang. Gener is real in the role—and there's no other way to describe it. She's a lonely child craving for her mother's love and missing her father's, and a blooming flower susceptible to the advances of boyfriend Danny (Paolo O'Hara). What makes Gener's acting remarkable is that she combines this incredible innocence and purity with that dangerous edge that allows her to court murder. And when the dire deed is done, her armor falls, to reveal nothing inside but a lost little girl.

INSIANG (Sheenly Gener in foreground) is caught in the middle of an abusive mother, Pacing (Malou de Guzman), and her mother's deceitful lover, Dado (Ricky Davao).

The other fulcrum is Peewee O'Hara's Toyang. This crazed *labandera* is storyteller, chorus and squatter-gossip queen rolled into one. Her narrative enables us to see past histories and present emotional and other internal secrets. As the omniscient guide who gives the audience a few lessons on the craft of theater, Toyang's comic ironic analyses prevent the plot from descending into melodrama, at the same time flashing an insight or two for the audience to think about.

In lesser hands, the character would have been a contrived deux ex machina. But Mario O'Hara's wit and Peewee's handling and heart make Toyang a living mirror who walks with Insiang, supporting the child through her lonely journey.

Trumpets' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" runs at the Meralco Theater until Sept. 15. Call 633-5010 or 636-2842.

THEATER IN CEBU

Telling the story

By Jeneen R. Garcia
Contributor

TWENTY-ONE mostly amateur actors, only three months of rehearsals, two sets of cast and a borrowed Broadway musical—the most recent staging of "Once on This Island" couldn't have had riskier production values. But it had eight runs recently at the Ayala Theater in Cebu City, reputed to have the country's hardest-to-please audience.

Like all art, the musical started as a vision. First-time director/producer Hendri Go of Little Boy Productions first thought of doing it offhand during an interview for a local magazine last December. He and his co-producers had just brought the Broadway play "Love Letters to Cebu," with Bart Guingona and Pinky Amador playing the leads. They had no intention then of doing an original production. Three months later, they held auditions.

Little Boy Productions is composed of Go, a genuine '80s kid, and some friends from a previous local production. Not surprisingly, most of the people who got parts in their musical were students or yuppies like themselves with regular day jobs. Even the production staff was in the same age bracket.

But that's just one of the things that set Go's version apart from other "Once on This Island" productions all over the world. The lively musical is set on a Caribbean island. It starts with a little girl crying because of a storm, and her elders telling her a story to comfort her. The play then shifts to the story of a black girl and a French mulatto who meet and fall in love in spite of social taboos. The resolution reminds one of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, "The Little Mermaid," but here, the black girl dies and becomes a tree when she refuses to kill the man she loves.

Truly Asian

"There are so many things Filipinos can relate to in the story," says Go. Thus he came up with the vision of making it truly Asian—a monochromatic set made entirely of bamboo and white fabric, dance steps that mixed everything from Thai to ethnic, and an author-approved, text-substituted version of the libretto that focused on the general theme of prejudice rather than on the issue of color and race.

"I wanted it to be as far from Caribbean as possible," he says. "And I wanted it to be simple so it would look like an island that can be anywhere in Asia."

Another notable feature about this Cebu production was the focus on the little girl rather than on the lovers, as is usually the case. All throughout the play, the little girl is somewhere onstage, watching the story unfold. Instead of just having a narrator, one of the characters would take on the role of a storyteller entertaining the little girl. This also serves as an ingenious transition technique while the rest of the cast prepares for the next scene onstage.

Highlighting the musical's storytelling aspect was Go's idea. "The little girl is the stand-in for the audience," he says. "By telling this story, the storytellers remind the little girl of her culture, her gods, her religion. It is actually us who are being reminded of who we are through the stories we weave." This, Go says, is why the characters in the story, especially the gods, turn into storytellers in different parts of the play. "We tell the story to remind us in modern times to go back to mythology and religion, because these shape who we are as a people, the stories handed down from one generation to the next," he says.

The storytelling slant was also the reason Go decided not to use any props. "When you tell a story, you use your hands, or you pretend that the glass you're holding is a helicopter," he says. "If you use too many props, you'll begin to wonder, 'Where did those come from?'" Since there were deliberately no objects on hand to use as incidental props, the characters had to use their bodies.

Double effort

Jaime del Prado came in from Manila to teach the cast how to move like birds, trees, frogs and even like rain. Bart Guingona was brought in to give acting workshops. With a cast of only 11 for each run, each actor had to put in double—and sometimes triple—the effort in memorizing the songs and learning the choreography for several roles.

Despite the small cast, Go was confident that the musical could be done well, given the limitations of doing it in Cebu. "We have fantastic singers here," he says. And natural actors and dancers, too, with none of the pretentious accents that usually surface in borrowed productions.

Everything falls into place as the cast sings the last song: "Love is why/ We tell the story/ Pain is why/ We tell the story/ Grief is why/ We tell the story..." In the end, the little girl begins to tell the story her elders have just told her, and the cycle continues. It could very well be the restaging of the play, too.

Because telling the story of our lives and preserving our culture is ultimately what theater is about. "There is always that dream. Theater is a dying art in Cebu. We need to revive it and pass it on to other generations," Go says. "Since I'm in Cebu for the long run, I want to build something here; leave something behind."

Little Boy Productions is bringing "Via Dolorosa" to Cebu, with Bart Guingona in the lead. A rerun of "Once on This Island" is also planned.

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Repertory Philippines stages Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" at the William J. Shaw Theater of the Shangri-La Plaza in Mandaluyong until Sept. 15, and at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater of the RCBC Plaza in Makati from Sept. 19-29. Directed by Zeneida Amador, the production stars Jeremy Domingo, Raul Montessa, Rem Zamora, Joel Trinidad, Liesl Batucan, Ana Abad Santos-Bitong and George Ramos. Costumes by Baby Barredo and Rem Zamora, and assistant director is Michael Williams. Group and school discounts available. Call 633-4822 to 25.

Auditions for Christmas musical

AUDITIONS for the Repertory Philippines production of "A Christmas Carol-Scrooge, the Musical" will be held on Sept. 8 at the William J. Shaw Theater at Shangri-La Plaza. The audition is open to amateur and professional actors, six years old and up. Interested parties must bring their resumes and ID photos, and sing a song from the musical. Piano pieces are available at the Rep office. Call 633-4822 to 25.

Plays by Dumol and Sicat staged

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Repertory Company will stage Paul Dumol's "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" and Rogelio Sicat's "Moses, Moses" at the Dalisay Aldaba Recital Hall, UP Theater, Diliman, QC.

Play dates are Sept. 6 (7 p.m.), 8, (3 p.m.), 11 (3 p.m. and 7 p.m.), 13 (7 p.m.), 14 (3 p.m. and 7 p.m.) and 18 (3. p.m.).

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Is liposuction safe? The official position of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons is that liposuction is generally safe, provided that patients are carefully selected, the operating facility is properly equipped, and the doctor has basic accredited surgical training and specialized training in liposuction and body contouring.

The ideal candidate for liposuction is a healthy person with localized areas of unwanted fat beneath firm, elastic skin. Women usually seek improvement in the hips, thighs, abdomen, and legs while men seek to improve their waist and abdomen. Liposuction is not a method to be used for weight loss, nor will it remove cellulite. It is not recommended for those with diabetes, poor circulation, heart or lung disease, or those with recent surgery in the region to be treated.

Serious medical complications are rare. All patients experience some degree of soreness, numbness, swelling and discoloration after liposuction, though most begin to feel better during the first week. Patients should wear a snug elastic garment over the treated area and their work may be resumed within a few days.

The most important thing that patients can do is to choose a doctor who has completed an accredited residency training in plastic surgery and has specialized training in liposuction.

Dr. Carlos Lasa, Jr. is a graduate of the University of the Philippines (Magna Cum Laude, B.S., 1978; M.D., 1982). He underwent residency training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at UP-PGH from 1984 to 1988 and completed advanced fellowship training programs in cosmetic surgery in the U.S.A. from 1989 to 1995. For further information, please call 636-7754 or 0917-4696945

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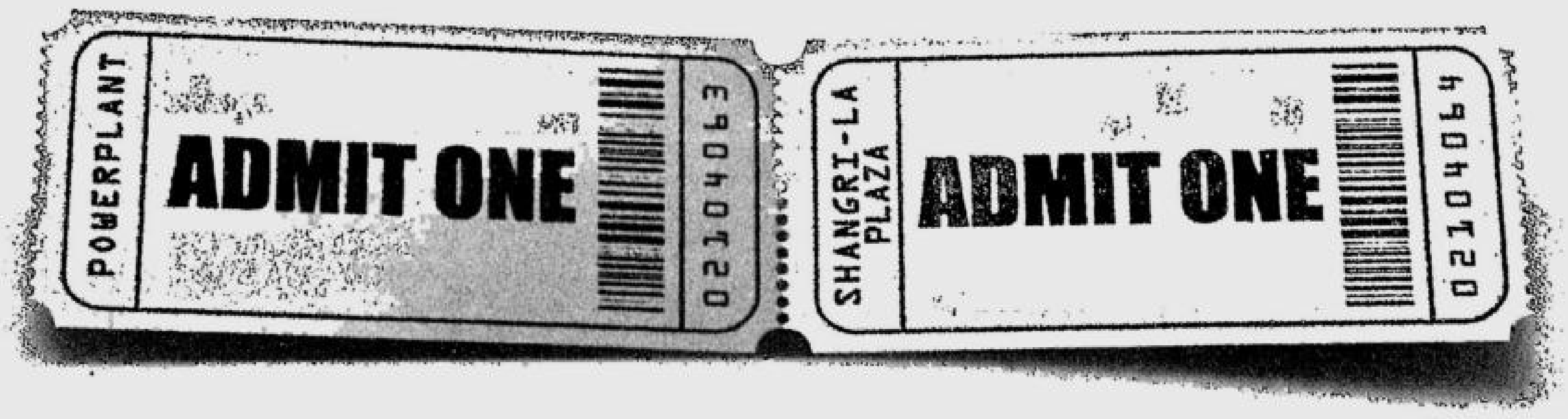

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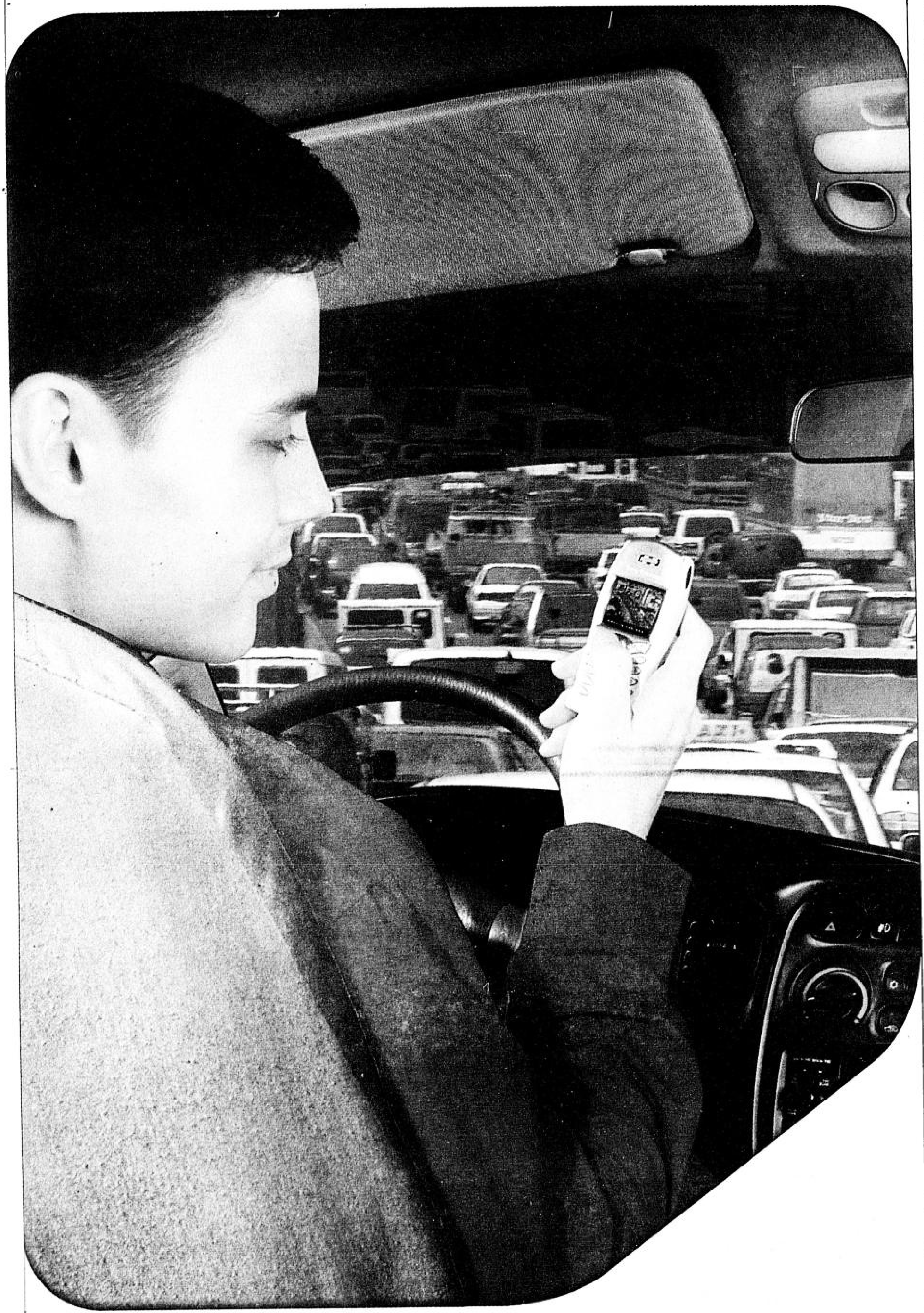

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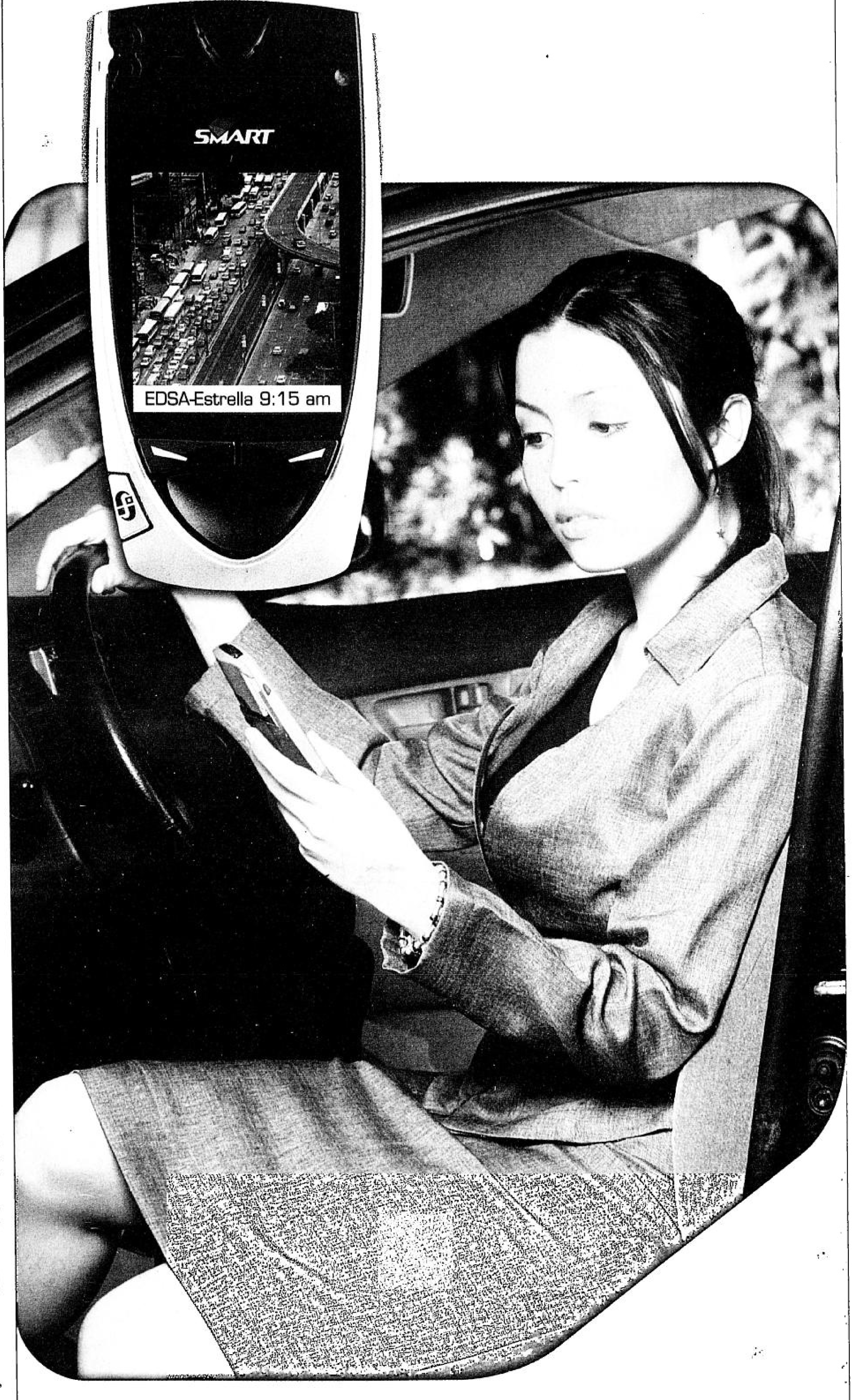

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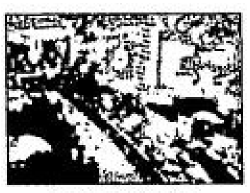
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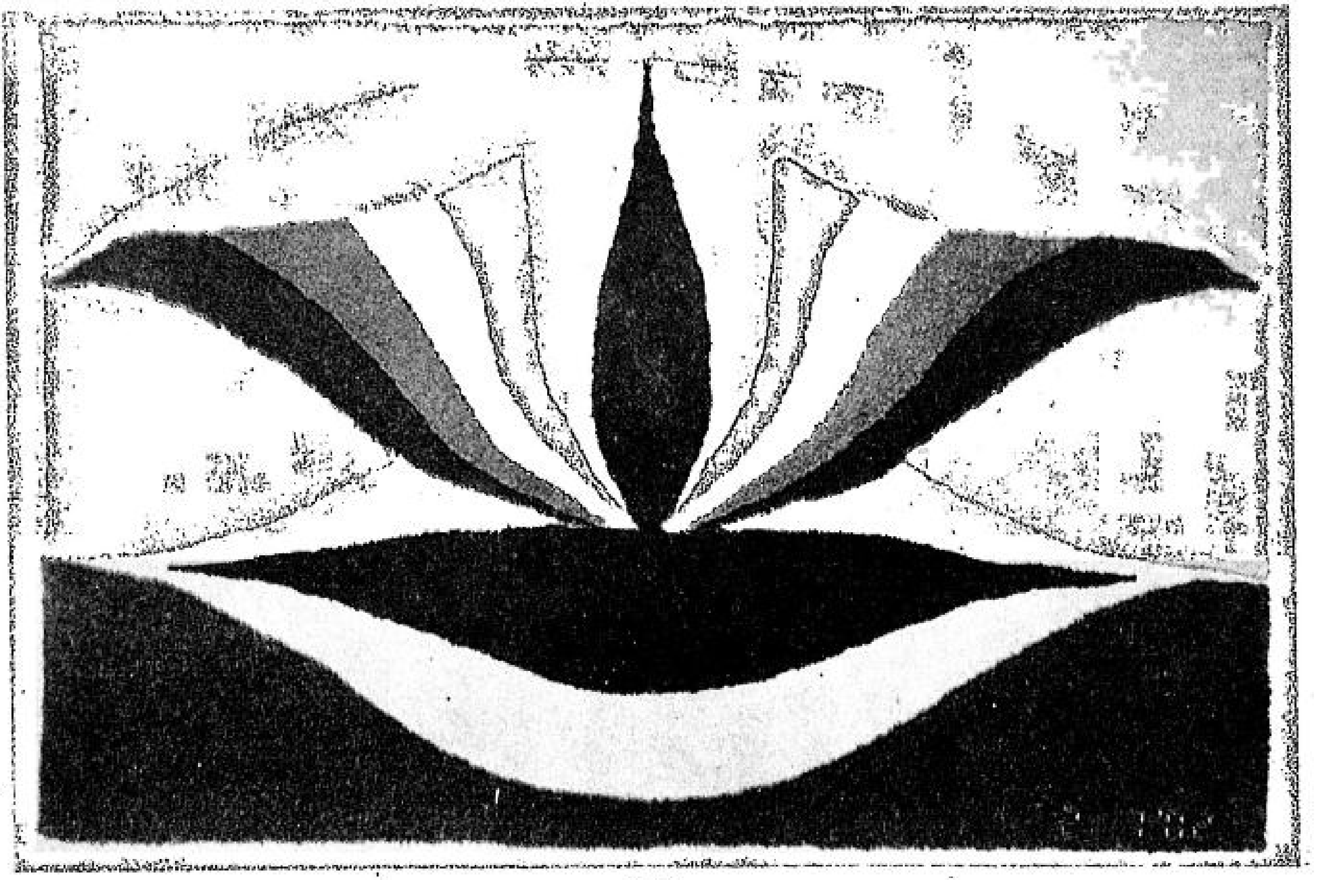
TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO ARCELLA

Fantasy image on a piece of cloth

By Constantino C. Tejero


"APERTURA"

THOUGH known more as a writer, Hilario Francia is just as accomplished a graphic artist working in oil, pastel, woodcut, dry brush, mixed media, pen and ink, serigraphy.

Just recently he displayed in the Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk in SM Megamall another aspect of his art-making: tapestry. With this he reminds us of another writer-craftsman, William Morris. (Federico Alcuaz and José Ayala are the only other Filipino artists who have explored the possibilities of this craft.)

Some of the pieces are being displayed again together with Francia's other artworks (34 in all) at the UP Main Library through Sept. 7, as part of a tribute to the late National Artist in Literature Francisco Arcellana.

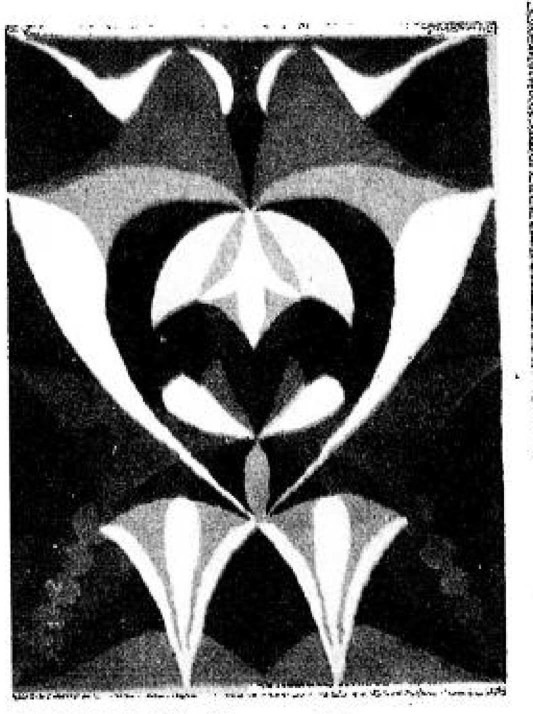
A note on one wall traces the art of tapestry to the ancient civilizations of China, India and Persia. It was an Oriental craft before it became the wall rugs of the West: the Bayeaux tapestries commemorating historical events; the adornments depicting biblical scenes on the walls of churches in the Middle Ages; Raphael's creations for the Sistine Chapel; and those democratically manufactured for the state and the public by famous houses such as the Gobelins in France.

Levels of perception

In this age of mass production, Francia, like Morris during the industrial age, aspires to bring back tapestry to its original status as art object, one-of-a-kind and finely crafted. He has Taiting Rugs of the Far East Corp. craft these woolen pieces using his designs and color guide.

While it takes about a week for him to create a design, the piece itself would take an average of two weeks to execute. He has done 24 pieces since he started in 1997, and has since held six exhibits of them here and abroad

The tapestries have uniformly gray borders and mostly dark backgrounds on which unfold elaborate designs and symbolic motifs. They are abstractions alluding to the Maranao *okir*, the *yin-yang* principle, ancient Eastern philosophies from Hindu to Chinese to Hebrew.

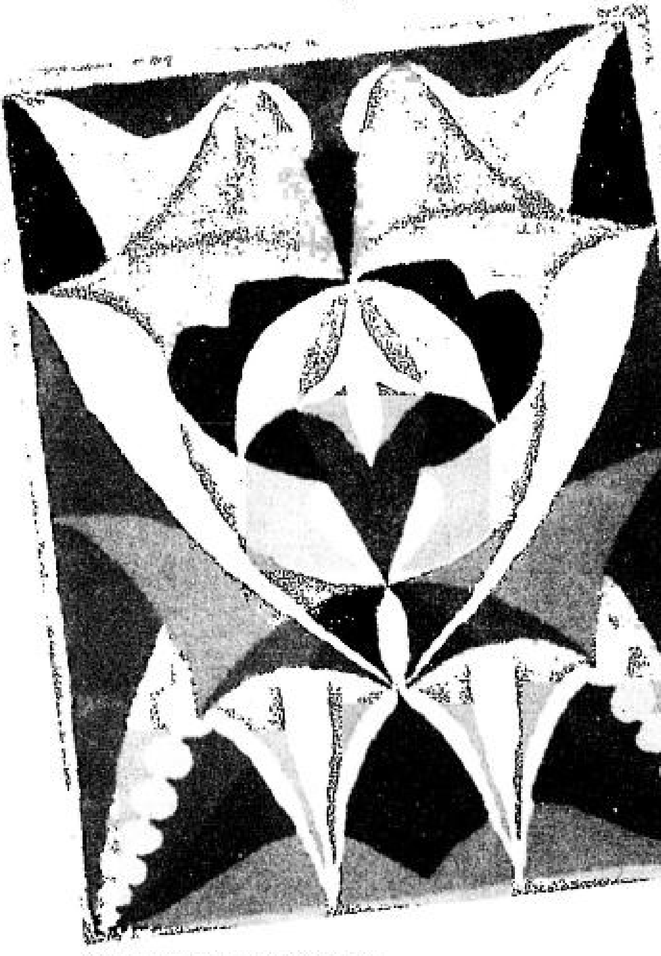

"KALIPAKA II" (Crepusculo)

"The thing with abstraction is, it has many levels of perception," says Francia. "The viewer's perception adds richness to the work. You bring your experience of life to it. The figurative has limits. Figurative art is quite limited. A landscape, for example—how many levels can it bring to the viewer?"

Most of the pieces' titles are even appropriately abstract, composites of Tagalog terms referring to names of flowers, nature, royalty. All symmetrically patterned, some forms are sharply outlined and filled with vivid hues, while others are subtle in gradations.

Subtlety and richness

Remarkable for the subtlety as well as the richness of tones is "Hari-Raya," in yellow and gradations of old rose, fuchsia, red, violet, blue, brown. This subtlety in color interaction is pushed further to near monochrome in the old rose, slate-blue, violet and indigo of "Engkanto," our favorite in the exhibit.


"KALIPAKA III" (Otoño)

"Apertura" has dominant hues of indigo, gray, slate-blue, maroon, old rose, then tapering stripes of green, yellow, red, blue, violet, looking like opening bivalves of a shellfish, or a lotus bloom. "Sagino" seems like octopuses in orange, yellow and white, so searing in its hues.

"Content determines the color," says the artist.

The others also impress with the complexity of their designs and the vividness or subtlety of their hues: "Kalipaka IV (Verano)," with its orange, maroon, gray, viridian, blue-green, apple-green, brown; "Kalipaka III (Otoño)," in old rose, violet, orange, ochre, yellow, green, ink-blue; "Kalipaka II (Crepusculo)," in green, gray, maroon, black, tangerine; and "Kalinim," in black, maroon, brown, green, slate-blue, mandarin orange.

From these patterns are barely perceptible the shapes of a plant sprouting from a seed, a seed emerging from a pod, a cross section of a flower or fruit, a demon mask, even a human heart.

We know Francia is rigorously depicting motifs and symbols from old lore and ancient art, but with his kind of sensibility, we know he'll indulge our fantasy.

Phoenix at Ayala, Bencab and Reyes at Lopez, 9 artists at Nine

VISUAL ARTS

PHOENIX will exhibit her new works at the Ayala Museum (old Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati) on Sept. 10-30. During the opening of "Variations of the Color Red," guests of honor are Katherine Zobel and Mario Katigbak. Call 812-1191 to 95.

PAINTER and printmaker Bencab and artist-critic Cid Reyes will talk about art and history at the Lopez Memorial Museum on Sept. 7, 10 a.m. The lecture complements the exhibition, "Luna's Paris, Hidalgo's Politics," running at the museum until Jan. 14. The exhibit itself is part of the series, "Zero in: Private Art, Public Lives," a collaboration between the Ateneo, Ayala and Lopez museums. Call 449-2355.

GALLERY Nine will celebrate its third anniversary with an exhibit featuring the works of [illegible] artists—Ramon [illegible], [illegible]arcel Antonio, Fatima [illegible], [illegible] Galura, Michael Cacnio, Nikulas Lebajo, Romeo Forbes, Agang, and Manes—on Sept. 9 at its Megamall branch. Call 687-7302 or 899-2704.

HUGO Jr. and Esperanza Lubag will hold their second show tomorrow at the SM Art Center, SM Megamall, Mandalu[illegible] City. The exhibit will run until [illegible] 18. The show features a co[illegible] of colorful and vibrant finger paintings of *koi* (Japanese carp) and underwater corals by Esperanza, and still life and landscapes by Hugo in simple, subdued colors and tranquil, impressionistic styles.

FOURTEEN Filipino artists address the dilemma of contemporary painting in the age of the photograph and digital imagery in the show "Reflecting Skin" at the Pinto Art Gallery. The artists are Ronald Achacoso, Juan Alcazaren, Pablo Biglang-Awa Jr., Annie Cabigting, Geraldine Javier, Elaine Roberto-Navas, Maggie Obana Bernard[illegible] [illegible]quing, Ju[illegible] [illegible]quepe, Kelly Ramos, Joseph Serrano, Irek Valdizno, Roma Valles and Alvin Villaruel. The show will open on Sept.14. Pinto Art Gallery is at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City. Call 697-1015.

RUBEN de Jesus' illustrations for the book "Mga Anak ng Araw" by Rene O. Villanueva are on view at the UP Vargas Museum until Sept. 26. The exhibit features the original studi[illegible] [illegible]ngs, color proofs and actu[illegible] [illegible]s from the [illegible]ldren's boo[illegible] launched by Lampara Books during the show's opening. During the exhibition, storytelling sessions will be held 10 a.m.-12 nn, on Sept. 11-25. De Jesus will also give a free workshop on children's book illustration 9 a.m.-12 nn on Sept 18. Call 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

THE MANILA Sanitarium Foundation Inc. presents a portrait exhibit/sale by artist Benny P. Filomeno at the lobby of Manila Sanitarium and Hospital, 1975 Donada St., Pasay City, the whole month of September except Saturdays. Proceeds will benefit the foundation's programs and projects. Call 525-9191 local 106 or 111.

PAINTER Fernando B. Sena will hold an art workshop, Sept. 11-Nov. 6, at the following venues: 9-11:30 a.m., Wednesdays, J. Vargas Museum, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC; 9-11:30 a.m., Thursdays, 14-A Maalalahanin St., Teachers Village, QC; and 9-11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays (once a week), Philippine Medical Women's Association, V. Luna Road and Malakas Street, QC. Call 924-6425 and 925-8801.

"MIRROR Painting," Gerardo Tan's new installation, is on view at Finale Art Gallery until Sept. 8. The work is a wall-to-wall bank of mirrors deploying on thes surface rows upon rows of multicolored dashes of oil pigment. Finale Art Gallery is on the 4/L, SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City.

ANTONIO Leano features his recent body of works in two one-man exhibits this month at the Finale Art Gallery and West Gallery. In "Atmosphere" at the Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall Sept. 10-22, the artist presents works on canvas fusing industrial materials and painting. Leano achieves a tactile and visual dialogue with "Variants" at the West Gallery, Glorietta 4, Makati City. The show runs Sept. 26-Oct. 8.

THE AUSTRALIAN Embassy presents "Outback Heart," an exhibit of photographic images by Australian photographer-artist James Gatehouse to celebrate Australia's Year of the Outback in 2002. Open until Sept. 13, the show is being held at the Australia Centre, 104 corner Paseo de Roxas and Perea St., Makati City.

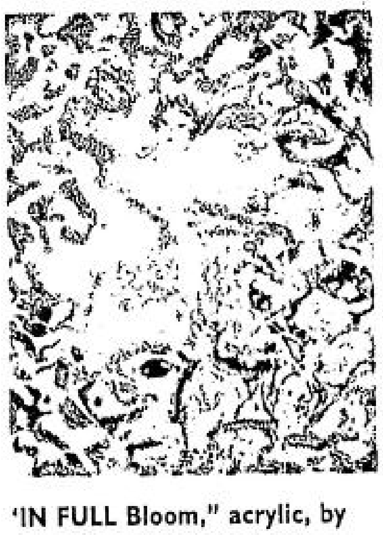
"ELEMENTO," an exhibit of musical sculpture and installation, features the works of Lirio Salvador, Herald Corpus, Kris Deuda, Andrew Lorimer, Gilbert Sanchez and Kaloy Olavides. The group's musical instruments are sculptural pieces made from industrial debris, scrap metal and found objects. "Elemento" opens at 6:30 p.m. at the Alliance Francaise de Manille Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. The exhibit runs until Sept. 27. Call 895-7585/7441.

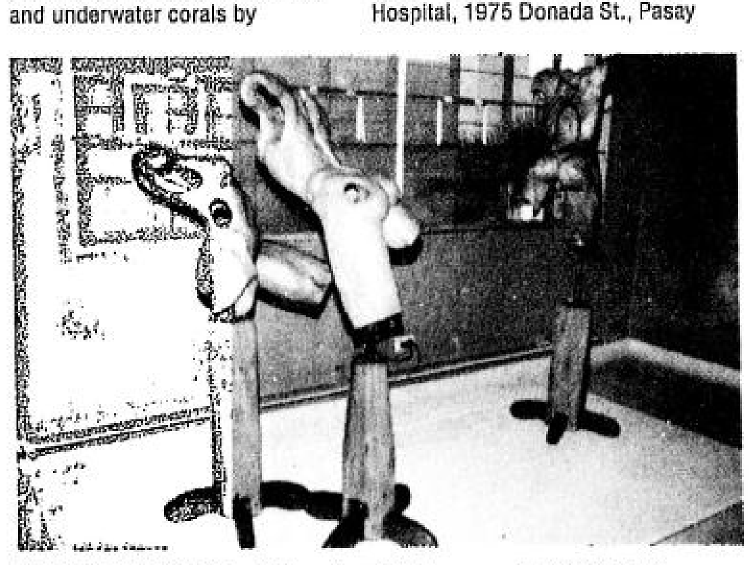
TO MARK the first anniversary of the tragic Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, Epson Philippines Corporation mounts "Images from Ground Zero," a commemorative photo exhibit featuring photographer of the month Rommel "Abe" Abesamis. The collection depicts emotions a month after the tragedy. "Images from Ground Zero" will run until Sept. 30. The Epson Square, a showroom, photo gallery and information center, is located at the 3/L of SM Megamall Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City.

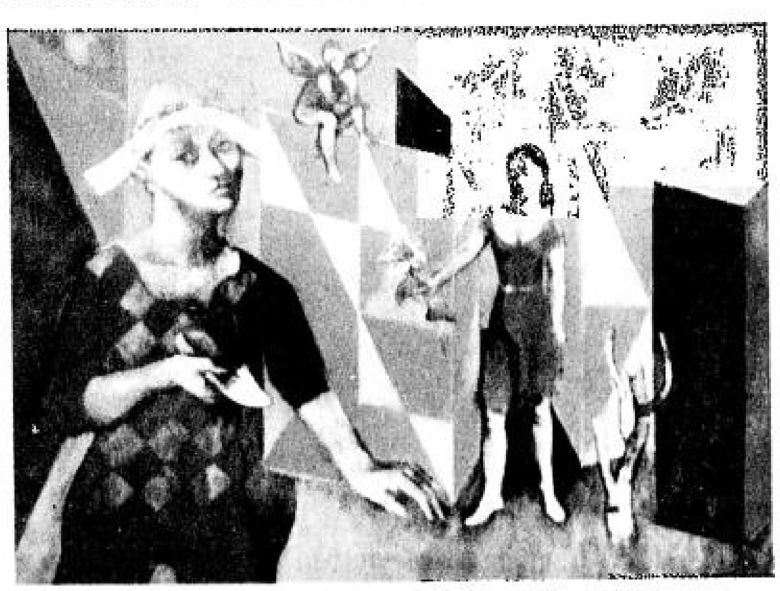
THE POSITIVISM Art Workshop is now open to old and young alike. The two-hour weekly art sessions are conducted by artist E.R. Tagle at the Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Barangay San Antonio, Makati. Tuition is P3,500, inclusive of art materials. Call 899-6358 or 816-0904.

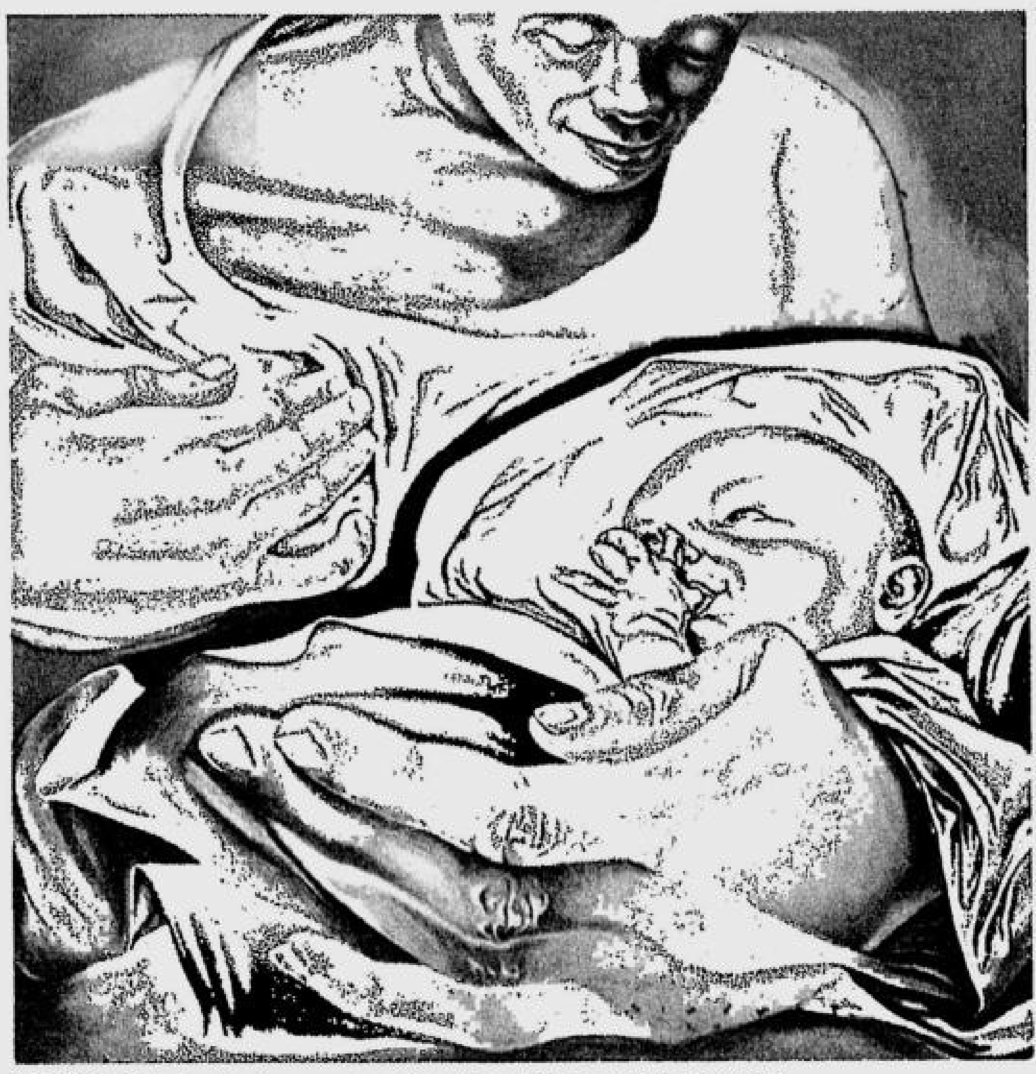
ARTIST-AUTHOR Tam P. Austria and his family were received recently at the Philippine embassy in Amsterdam. They were welcomed by first secretary and consul Eduardo Menez, and administrative officer Jerry Yambao, and several other officials. Austria gave a talk to embassy staff outlining his artistic philosophy.

JAIME [illegible], former chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and Gina Barte Araneta, former director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Museum, were the guests during the formal opening of the Onib Olmedo exhibit. Others in photo are (from left) Silvana Diaz, Francesca Olmedo, Bettina Olmedo, Gisella and Rev Araneta.


'IN FULL Bloom," acrylic, by Phoenix at Ayala


"A CELEBRATION of Wood and Form [illegible] Exhibition of Sculptures," an exhibit by note[illegible] [illegible] V. Araos, opened recently at the exhibit hall of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc., with main office and plant at the Laguna International Industrial Park in Biñan, Laguna.


MARCEL Antonio's "The Quest" at Gallery Nine



"BAGONG Tatay," oil on canvas, 4' x 4' or 122 cm x 122 cm, 2002

Angelic work of art

From page D1

she declared.

Her husband did not believe her. "I did not want to encourage her," Siev recalled. "I didn't want her to get hurt. Me, too, I didn't want to be disappointed."

They had an argument. Grace was positive (pun not intended) that she was pregnant. Miffed, she went to a clinic alone, and there, a test confirmed that she was indeed with child.

Siev was overcome by emotion. He cried, then broke the news to his widowed mother, Victorina Fua Sievert (Siev is of Chinese-Filipino-German-Spanish parentage), in Tacloban City, Leyte. Then he called up gallery curator Bobi Valenzuela, a close friend who would become his *compadre*.

On the third month, Grace had to be taken to the hospital. It was a dark, gloomy evening, and they had to walk through the deserted street to hail a taxi. Grace had developed *myoma*, and had a kind of growth in her uterus. Fortunately, she pulled through.

The doctor recommended bed rest and no activities. So Grace stayed with her mother, Rosario de Jesus, for a time, and then, on the seventh month, they returned to their residence in Baesa, Quezon City.

WITH his painting "Gabriel," oil on canvas, 6' x 5' or 183 cm x 152 cm, 2002

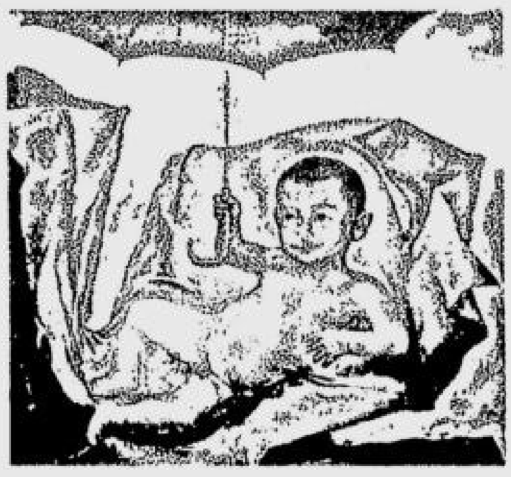
In January 2000, a big, bouncing baby boy was born to the Sieverts. He was named Gabriel after the Archangel Gabriel, the novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez and the actor Gabriel Byrne.

Baby Gabriel, now 2 ½ years old, is the inspiration for Siev's third solo show, "Gabriel," at Boston Gallery (corner Boston and Lantana streets, Cubao), ongoing until Sept. 6.

For the exhibit, a year in preparation, Siev produced 12 works in oil, some of them large-scale. Little Gabriel is shown in various poses and moods. These are powerful yet disarming works, marked by bold strokes, distortion, light and dark shades, firm draftsmanship, and an expressionist exuberance.

One is reminded of the Mexican muralists Diego Rivera and Alfredo Siquieros, among other influences.

For Siev, the exhibit is his way of thanking God "*para sa grasya na binigay Niya*. I think there is a message here. So I want to make sure that I will become a good *tatay*."



"PAYONG," oil on canvas, 4' x 4' or 122 cm ~ 122 cm, 2002

HALLMARK Cards has launched its new Life series, in which artists donate their works to a special line of greeting cards. The sale of the cards will raise funds for the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (Life), a charity that provides poor child-patients with chemotherapy and other treatments. In photo are Maximo Licauco III (third from left) and Ramoncito Licauco (third from right) of Filstar, distributor of Hallmark, and Dr. Alendry Caviles, Life chairperson. With them are artists and photographers Jovito Andres, Jes Pelino, Thess Javier, George Tapan and Harold Tapan. Not in photo are artists Manuel Baldemor and Platon Vasquez.

Arts and crafts instructional video series now out

THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND locally produced arts and crafts instructional video series featuring artist Victor Bella teaching the rudiments of candle making, flower sculpture and glass painting is now available.

Flower Sculpture Made Easy
with
VICTOR BELLA
Produced and Distributed by
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Video titles include "Decorative Candles Made Easy," "Flower Sculpture Made Easy" and "Decorative Painting on Glass Made Easy." All three instructional videos are registered with copyright in the US.

"Decorative Candles" covers all aspects of candle making, including explanations on materials, equipment and innovative techniques. Watch how artist Bella, a painter who graduated fine arts at the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in Holland, execute floating, layered, scented, figurine, container, ice cool and gel candles.

In "Flower Sculpture," Bella demonstrates fast and easy steps on how to mold and sculpt vibrantly beautiful and realistic flowers such as roses, daisies, sunflowers, daffodils, flower bud, calla lily, leaves and topiary.

"Decorative Painting on Glass" provides fast and easy step-by-step techniques such as outlining, painting, embellishing and dripping. Discover fresh and new approaches on how to combine transparent glass paints, gold relief paints and exotic jewels to create beautiful and stunning effects.

All three videos are available at Stitches and Things in SM Megamall Bldg. A. The videos are also available at National Book Store in Glorietta, Robinsons Place in Ermita, Alabang Town Center, Katipunan and Filinvest Festival Mall.

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• 3rd/4th Passenger	$444.00	$1,344.00

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11-NIGHT MEDITERRANEAN
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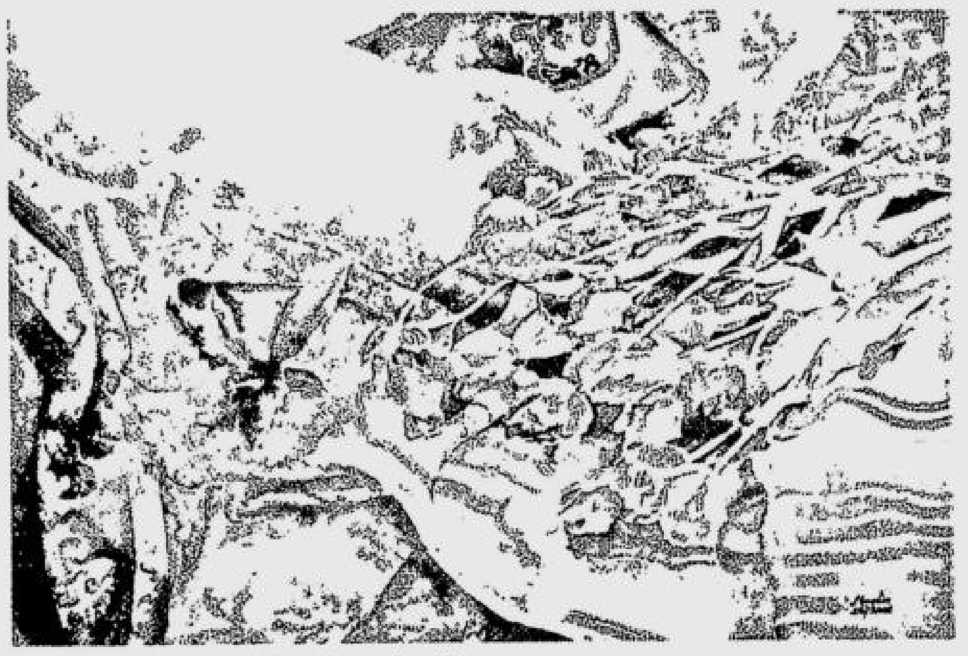
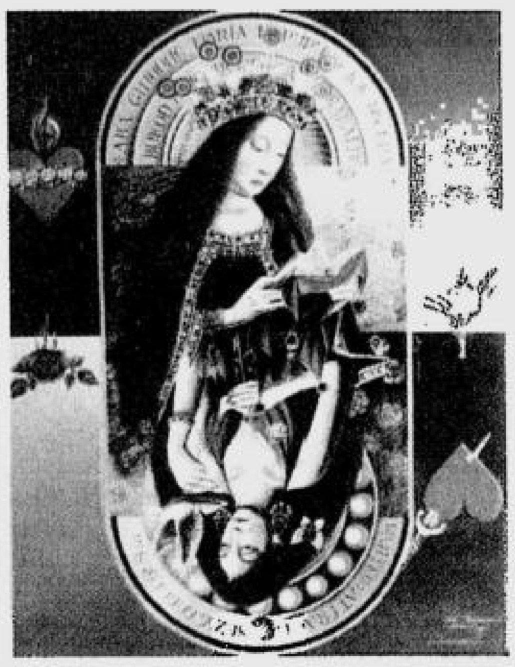
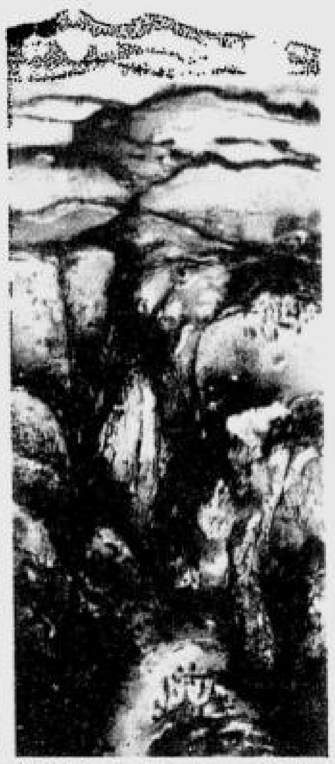

"GALORE of Flowers" by Margarita Lim

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE COUNTRY'S finest watercolor enthusiasts have to thank Gallery Genesis for making a successful 19th edition of its annual "Kulay sa Tubig" competition and exhibition. Very much alive and more vibrant than ever, this pet project of Ernie and Araceli Salas, owners of Genesis, drew a total of 61 participants and nearly a hundred entries, which is truly unprecedented considering the waning interest of most artists in the value of competitive shows, not to mention the rigorous demands imposed by the watercolor medium.


"ASSIMILATION" by Noli Principe Manalang


"MT. Pulog Summer '02" by Yeye Calderon

As in the past, Gallery Genesis named five grand winners, together with five runners-up, with nothing less than the artist's mastery of the medium as the main criterion for judging. Concededly a most difficult medium to control, watercolor yielded surprises for both veterans and neophytes alike who literally had a field day checking out one another on how they ultimately fared in the litmus test of aquarelle painting.

One of the five grand winners, senior artist Araceli Limcaco Dans, who was elevated to the Hall of Fame for having won three times, has long proven her consummate dexterity in the medium. Her two works—"Sampayan ni Inay" and "Dakilang Basura"—fully demonstrate her uncanny gifts in capturing the essence of still life in aquarelle, particularly evident in her astute rendering of everyday objects (such as dried parched leaves strewn on the pavement and collected into the box), as well as her trademark *callado*.

Noli Principe Manalang explores a flipside view of immortal pop icons John Lennon and Yoko Ono in "Double Fantasy." His other equally noteworthy piece, "Assimilation," shows the two contrasting sides of the female icon, the most venerated Virgin Mary and the vamp, which come complete with iconographic symbols like hearts and flowers in play cards.

Aldrie Acosta's "Cotton Balls" and "Against All Odds," both delving on the essence of blooms, show utter floral delicacy in his large-scale rendering of the subject in the tradition of Georgia O'Keefe. Jonathan Salvosa, on the other hand, captures the gleam and glitter of glass bottles and jars in "Collection 1995," all executed in the highly distinctive neutral shades of gray and black. Salvosa's other piece, "Kensaho," a view of throbbing deep-sea life, is, however, a more decidedly representative work.

Nature's strange facets

Fred Ramirez, an abstractionist by affinity, delves into the planet's inner core in "Red Earth" and "The Deep," with markedly contrasting forms to reveal nature's strange facets.

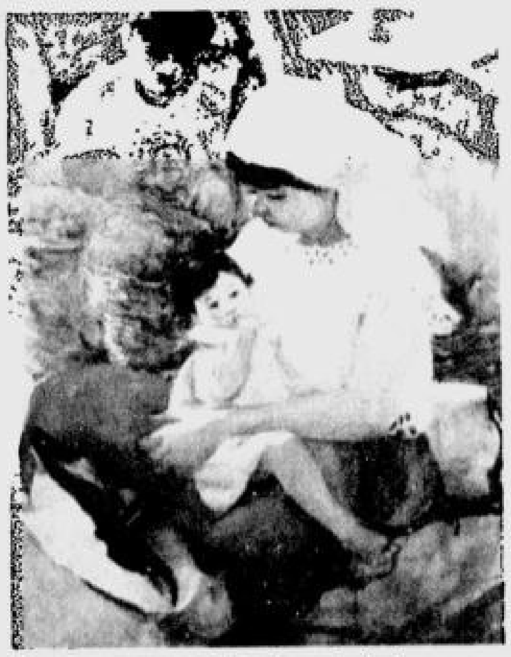
Of the five runners-up, Caloy Gabuco, a vaunted portraitist, flexes his brush and paint to deconstruct the soul of still life, via his unusual rendering of sliced fruits in "Kabiyak" and "Hinog." Joven Ignacio, with his punctilious eye in capturing the likeness of exotic bird life, shows his savvy in highly detailed renderings of plumage herons and peacocks in "Four Seasons" and "Aidda."

Yeye Calderon's "Mt. Pulog's Summer of '02" shows a bird's eye-view of a vast mountain range, with an environmental jab on our denuded resources. Margarita Lim, a virtual newcomer in the show, offers a fresh new approach to the time-tested subject of floral pulchritude in "Bonsai Drizzle" and "Galore of Flowers." Jess Gellada's "Ang Biyahera" captures the mother-and-child icon as an itinerant character belonging to a vintage era.

The show has other noteworthy entries, particularly Fidel Sarmiento's "Larawan ng Kahapon," Lydia Velaso Cruz's "December 3117," Chris Mirang's "Kargador," Sebastian's "Concrete Jungle" and Danilo Santiago's "Gusot na Papel sa Puting Buhangin." These works, in hindsight, could have easily won a winning slot given another set of judges. But I guess the judges—composed of art critics Emmanuel Torres, Alice Guillermo, Patrick Flores and Felipe de Leon Jr., gallery owners Cesar Villalon and Silvana Diaz, and art collector Robert Kuan—were on the lookout for much more than technical savvy and brio in the entries.

In the final reckoning, it is that winning factor in art making, so difficult to quantify for judging purposes, that spelled the difference.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.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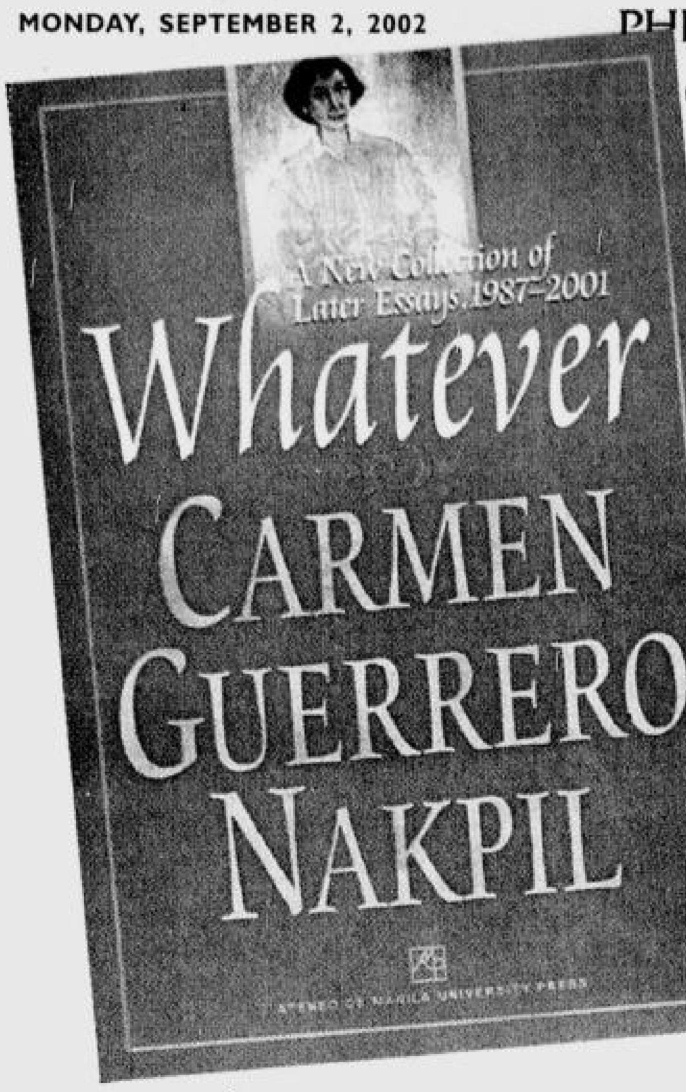
LIFESTYLE Books


A New Collection of Later Essays, 1987-2001
Whatever
CARMEN GUERRERO NAKPIL
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY PRESS

'Whatever' works

Whatever: A New Collection of Later Essays, 1987-2001
By Carmen Guerrero Nakpil
Ateneo de Manila University Press , 2002
211 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

IT IS always a remarkable experience when we can read the work of the country's best, and Carmen Guerrero Nakpil is one of our most accomplished essayists, period. With a sparkling career that stretches from her 1940s column in the Manila Chronicle to her present column in Malaya, Nakpil has always been something to look forward to in a newspaper's inky pages, her work brimming with intelligence, smoothness and bite. Beyond that, she has always had an infectiously elegant love for history that makes her essays required reading for those who ponder the question of being Filipino.

With two previous collections of essays to her name ("Woman Enough" and "A Question of Identity"), Nakpil now impresses us with "Whatever: A New Collection of Later Essays, 1987-2001," which gathers together her most recent musings and observations on the world around her. "I think this present collection best represents a third wind," she explains.

"The title, 'Whatever,' is a reference to the millennial way of ending an argument. It used to mean 'anything' or 'everything' or 'no matter' and 'in any case,' but has now become a catty, disdainful but peaceable, way of granting a hearing without necessarily agreeing with an opinion. It is now the trendy equivalent of saying, all right, have it your way, but this is my take on the subject. The essays in this book are offered in that spirit."

At random

In the same spirit is the voluminous and varied nature of Nakpil's writing. Save for a few lengthier pieces, Nakpil explains "the essays in this book were chosen at random from a pile of more than two thousand short pieces written over a period of 14 years." Thus the selected essays in "Whatever" are divided topically into the self-evident chapters "People," "Places," "Controversies," "Allusions and Alarums," "Journalism" and "Personal History."

Thus, Nakpil weighs in on subjects ranging from the question of our national language ("We became trilingual while nobody was looking") to the Italian town of Verona ("The real Verona is the perfect antidote to then poisonous madness of impossible love") and even to poet Jose Garcia Villa ("Garcia Villa is the personifica-

'WHATEVER' p.E2

PHOTO BY JOAN BONDOC

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil's newest collection of essays is the latest chapter in her career as one of our most accomplished essayists

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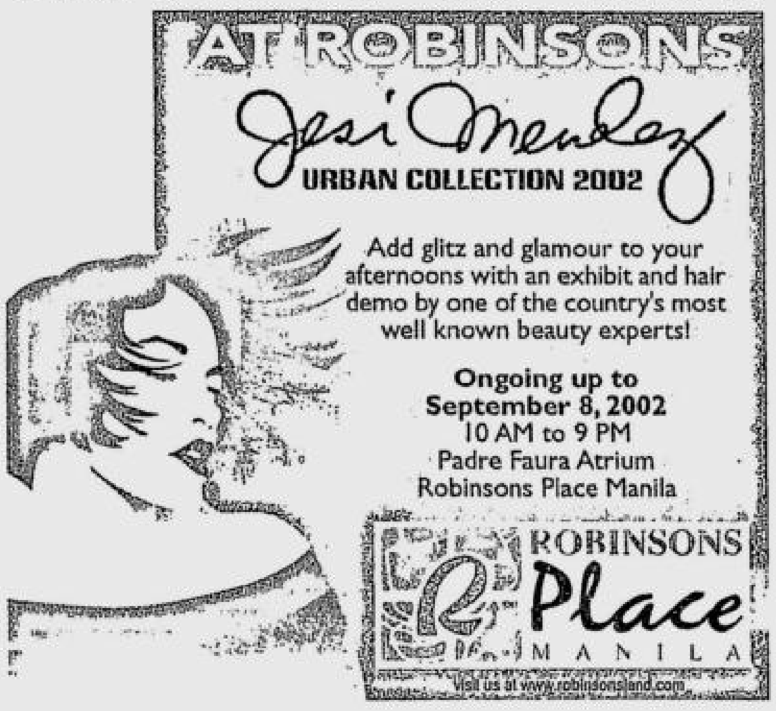
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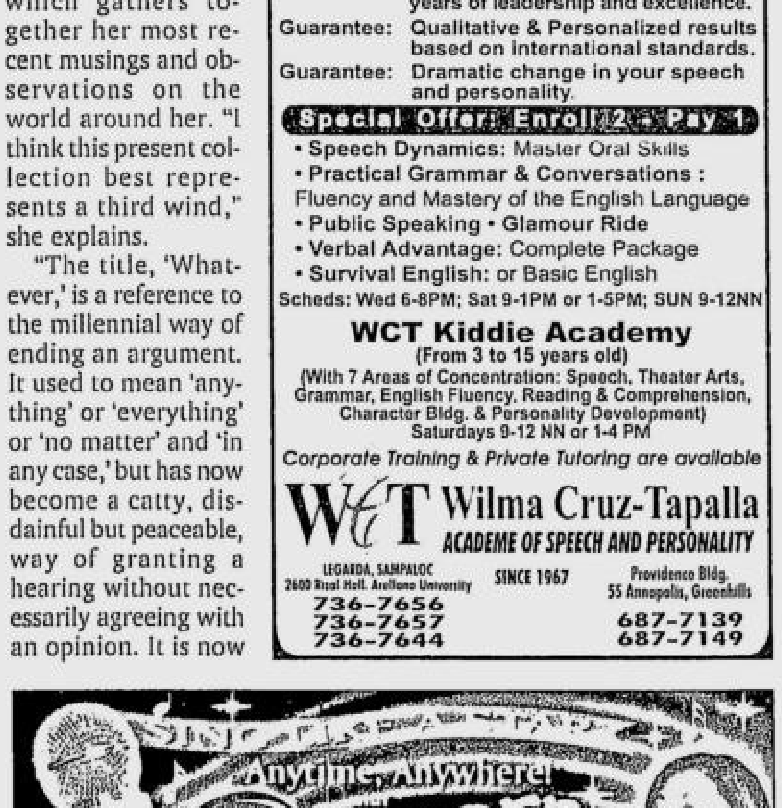

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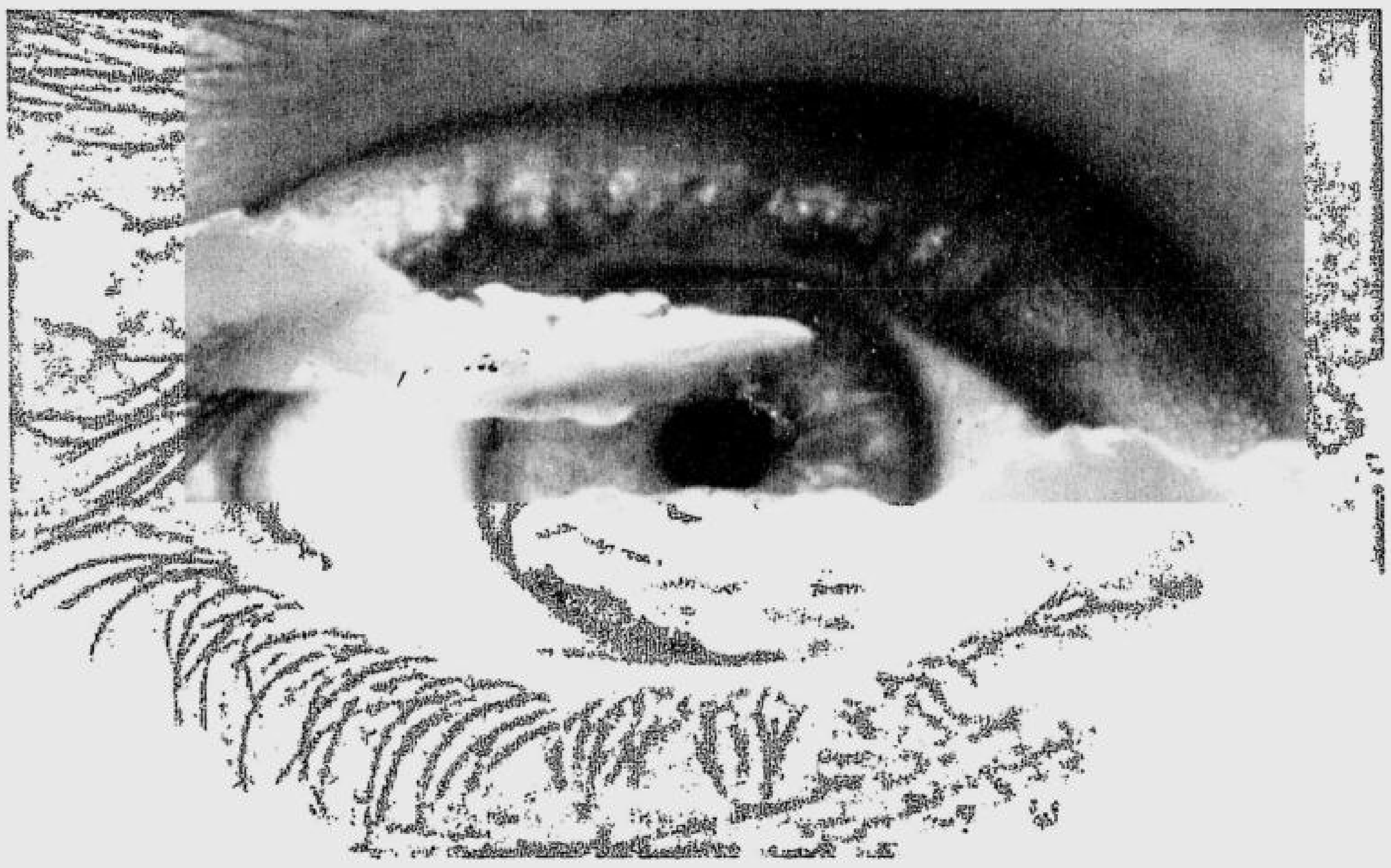

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Celebrities join UP Press book launching

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SENATOR Francis Pangilinan, Richard Gomez, Armida Siguion Reyna, Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Bibeth Orteza, Robert Arevalo, Barbara Perez, Tony Mabesa, Princess Punzalan, Angel Aquino, Joey Ayala, Jon Santos and other celebrities will read from the latest literary titles of the UP Press at the launching of its "Read UP!" campaign. The launching will be at 4 p.m. on Sept. 8, at the Megatrade Hall B, SM Megamall.

The campaign to read Philippine books and to read more addresses the concern about the waning interest in books and the deterioration of reading skills among young Filipinos.

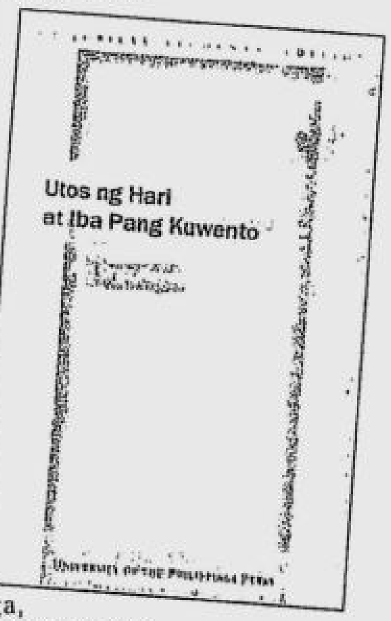
The celebrities hope that, by joining the campaign, they will convince wider audiences about the pleasures of reading.

virgintarian at iba pang akda

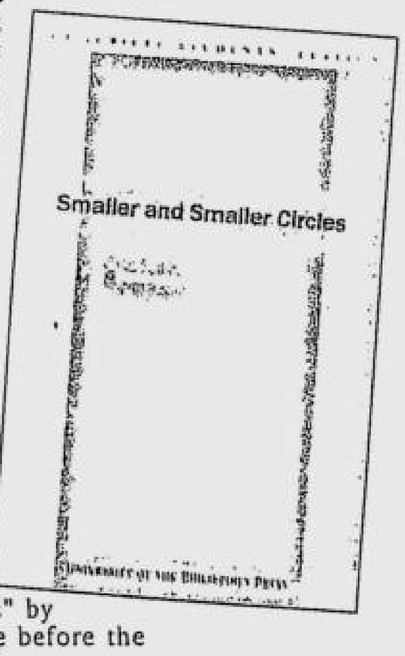
As part of the campaign, the UP Press is offering its first set of the UP Jubilee Student Edition at the ongoing Philippine Bookfair. This new line of inexpensive books is aimed at making the finest of contemporary Philippine literature in English and Filipino more accessible to students and to the general public.

The new books are "Smaller and Smaller Circles," a novel by F.H. Batacan; "Barriotic Punk," stories by Mes De Guz-man; and "Marginal Bliss," a collection of poems by Carlomar Daoana. The other four books are new editions of Jose Y. Dalisay Jr.'s "Old Timer and Other Stories" and Jun Cruz Reyes' "Utos ng Hari," and reprints of Rio Alma's "(A)lamat at (H)istorya" and Gemino H. Abad's "Poems and Parables."

The UP Press will publish more student-edition titles at very affordable prices, and will organize a caravan to different schools to sell them directly to students.



Other new literary titles available at the book fair are "The Likhaan Book of Poetry and Fiction 2000," edited by J. Neil Garcia and Charlson Ong; "Ang Aklat Likhaan ng Tula at Maikling Kuwento 2000," edited by Joi Barrios and Roland Tolentino; "Enuegs: Extracts of Tributes to My Civilization" by Alex Hufana, "Kau-layaw ng Agila" by Lilia Quindoza Santiago, "The Way Things Work" by Scott Garceau, "Remembered Songs and Other Stories" by Norma Miraflor, "Makinil-yang Altar" by Luna Sicat-Cleto, "Virgintarian at Iba Pang Kuwento" by Mayette Bayuga, and "Kundiman ng Katipunan: Awit nina Andres at Oryang" by Elynia S. Mabanglo.



Among other UP Press 2002 releases are "Metro Manila: In Search of a Sustainable Future," edited by Emerlinda R. Roman and Tatsuo Ohmachi; "National and Local Government Roles in Public Health under Devolution" by Victoria Bautista, et al., "Home Body Memory" by Flaudette May Datuin, "Rape, Love and Sexuality: The Construction of Women in Discourse" by Sylvia E. Claudio, 'The Filipino-American War, 1899-1913" by Samuel K. Tan, "In the Name of the Mother: 100 Years of Philippine Feminist Poetry" by Lilia Quindoza-San-tiago, "Saga and Triumph: The Filipino Revolution Against Spain" by Onofre D. Corpuz, "Philippine Folk Literature: The Legends" by Damiana L. Eugenio, "Gender-Sensitive and Feminist Methodologies" by Sylvia Guerrero, and "Cavite before the Revolution" by Isagani Medina.

Book store's grand sale ongoing

NATIONAL Book Store's Grand Cut Price Sale is ongoing, giving savings of up to 70 percent on all books and selected supplies until Sept. 15. Plus, for every single day purchase of P1,000 during the sale, customers get free carry-all foldable bag.

Some gift suggestions for fiction lovers are best-sellers on sale, like Anne Rice's hardbound "Blood and Gold" for only P517.50, Danielle Steele's "Irresistible Forces," Robert Ludlum's "Cassandra Compact," and Tom Clancy's "The Bear and the Dragon," each at only P199.

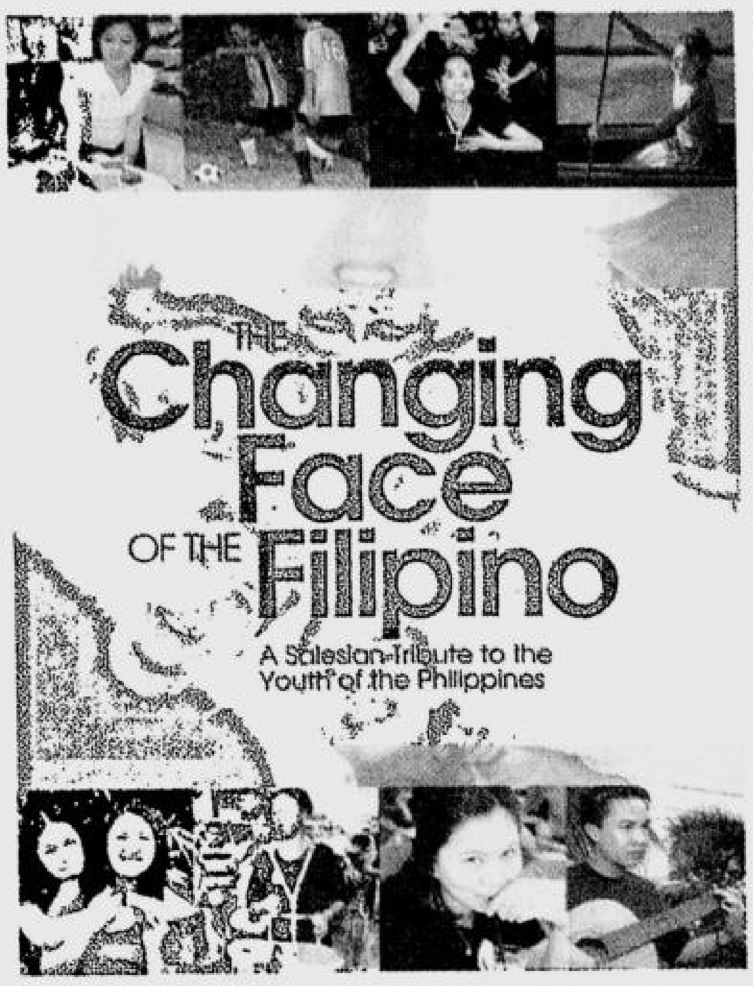
Children will go crazy in receiving Harry Potter sticker books (P201 each), "Origami for Beginners" (P171.50), Sally Gardner's all-time children's favorite storybook "The Glass Heart" (P275.50), or Walt Disney Puzzles like Simba Pride and Toy Story II (P194.75).

Your business-minded friends will get valuable information from Bill Gates' "Business @ the Speed of Thought" (P132.75), or "The Complete Idiot's Guide" series at only P199 each, with titles on "Winning through Negotiation," "Making Money through Intuition," "Motivating People," "Team Building" and "Brand Management."

Art lovers will treasure such finds as "Christmas Details" by Mary Norden (P94.50) and "The Artist Way" by Julia Cameron (P365). Inspirational books like "Living Through the Meantime" by Iyanla Vanzant (P259), "Friendship with God" by Neale Donald Walsh (P185), or "The Private Prayers of Pope John Paul II" (P195) will uplift the soul of the introspective bargain hunter.

On top of all the good book deals, you can also choose from photo albums, picture frames, greeting cards and stuffed toys.

In unique book, Salesians pay tribute to Filipino youth


THE Changing Face OF THE Filipino
A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines

"THE CHANGING Face of the Filipino," a colorful 312-page coffee-table book on the Filipino youth just off the press, will be launched on Sept. 10. Its publication marks the culmination of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Salesians of Don Bosco in the Philippines.

According to Salesian provincial Fr. Francis Gustilo, SDB, the book forms part of a bigger youth initiative—a vehicle through which to communicate a new paradigm for looking at and listening to the youth. "Ultimately, our goal is to market the youth among decision-makers, opinion leaders—government, businessmen, educators—and network with them toward proactive initiatives both for and with young people," says Father Gustilo. "Hopefully, the book will point to fresh initiatives that can be developed to benefit and involve the marginalized sectors of the youth in particular."

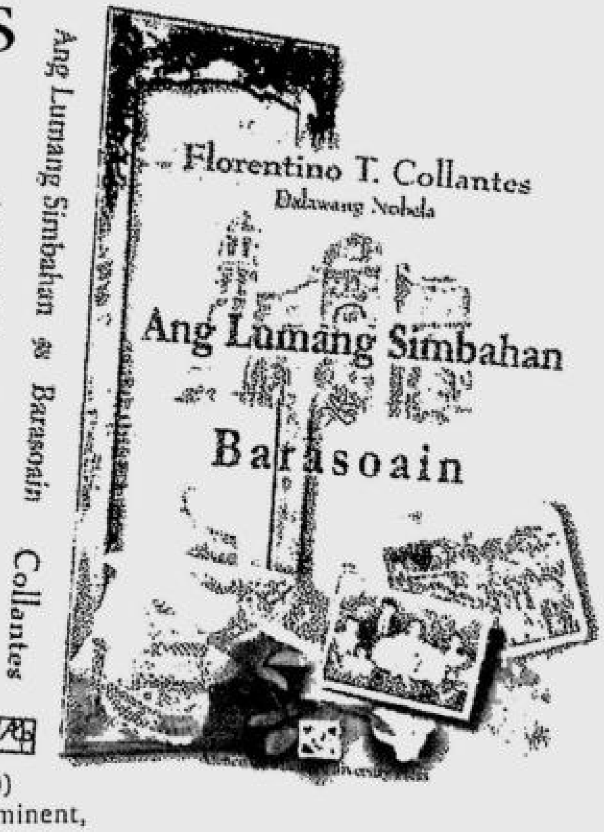
The first part of the book situates the Filipino youth within the national and global milieu of each of the last five decades of the 20th century—the same period that the Salesians made their growing presence felt in Philippine society. With the help of period photographs and calibrated design elements, the narrative takes the reader through a segmented, youth-focused stream of consciousness—from the birth of television to the age of the Internet.

The second part features 22 fresh reflective on contemporary issues and concerns profoundly affecting young Filipinos—from their hang-ups about sex and drugs to their views on values and technology. The essays are written from diverse points of view, with complementing data charts and tables from recent research studies on the nation's youth. As a counterpoint, each reflective piece is complemented by a sidebar about a young Filipino who is either grappling with the particular situation at issue or who has overcome adversity and emerged a better and stronger human being.

The book's distinguished contributors include former President Corazon Aquino, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste., Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Presidential Adviser Luis Lorenzo Jr., Prof. Queena Lee-Chua, advertising executive Emily Abrera, book publisher Virgilio Almario, Col. Victor Corpus, world-class bowler Paeng Nepomuceno, economist Solita Monsod, and non-formal education specialist Edicio dela Torre, along with other personalities from the government, business, academe, civil society, entertainment and religious sectors.

"The Changing Face of the Filipino," a valuable resource for researchers, educators, marketers and youth advocates, will be available at all major bookstores by September. Advance orders can be secured through the book's co-publisher and marketing arm, Infinit-1 Communication Services, at tel. 899-7631/ 899-6689.

Ateneo to release Mojares collection, 'Critical Villa'



THE ATENEO de Manila University Press will launch Resil B. Mojares' "Waiting for Mariang Makiling" and Jonathan Chua's "The Critical Villa" on Sept. 6, 6-7 p.m., at the Philippine Bookfair, Megatrade Hall, 5/F of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"Waiting for Mariang Makiling" is an engaging collection of essays that explore our cultural history. It takes up diverse texts such as the legend of Mariang Makiling, Pigafetta's discovery account of the Philippines, the life of Pedro Calungsod, a foundation narrative of a Marian shrine, colonial books of conduct, memoirs of Filipino intellectuals, a Bisayan love poem, political talk on radio, a dinner in 19th-century Cebu. There is underlying passion in these essays, pushing the reader to appreciate such issues as cultural politics and nation formation. Dr. Mojares, author of books in fields as diverse as literary criticism, urban and rural history, and political biography, teaches at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

"The Critical Villa" gathers for the first time Jose Garcia Villa's annual "roll of honor" and critical essays over the period of literary ferment in English, from 1927-1940. Over this period, the "refreshingly tactless" Villa published his much-awaited (or equally dreaded) lists of best essays or poems, as well as "criminal records." Through J. Chua's painstaking research and meticulous annotations, readers are shown not only how Philippine fiction and poetry evolved, but also how taste and a critical tradition, which to the present governs our literature, were formed. Chua teaches at the Ateneo de Manila University.

The books will be sold at a special launching price. Call 426-5984, 426-6001 local 4612/6 or e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph.

Collantes novels

EARLIER, the Ateneo launched Florentino Collantes' back-to-back novels "Ang Lumang Simbahan" and "Barasoain," and "Kuwentong Siyudad," a collection of short stories edited by Rolando Tolentino, Romulo Baquiran Jr. and Alwin Aguirre.

Florentino Collantes (1896-1950) was a first-rate poet and was prominent, along with Jose Cora-zon de Jesus or Huseng Batute, during the golden age of the Balagtasan (1924-1932). "Ang Lumang Simbahan," first written as a poem, was warmly accepted by the public, and its performance by Collantes was eagerly awaited in many a town fiesta. Translated into Visayan, Kapampangan and other regional languages, it later became a serialized novel. "Barasoain" tells of the age-old struggle of the masses against the rich and powerful as depicted in the lives of two families.

"Kuwentong Siyudad" catalogs modern urban experiences in contemporary Filipino. While we complain about the city incessantly—its crimes, the grime, the noise, the crowds, the traffic—it has become an important nodule in our lives. The 27 stories by some of today's most prolific artists showcase gritty experiences of survival in the city, in this case, Manila.

'Whatever' works

From page E1

tion of the Filipino tragedy"), all done with compact, poised prose. Just quoting her lines is a treat in itself. Other pieces strike with ingenuity and maverick thinking. The essay "Four Dead Heroes Conversing" is literally just that: Jose Rizal, Apolinario Mabini, Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo critiquing the centennial celebrations of 1998.

In piece after piece, Nakpil displays the confident form of the consummate essayist, relishing the history, sociology and minutiae of everyday Filipino life (her essay about politeness), as well as the grander questions of national identity (our relationship with America). Even if the events she mentions by way of examples had occurred years, even a decade ago, her erudite exposition cuts through those same years cleanly. As she mentioned earlier about the word "Whatever," Nakpil engages the reader and then states exactly what she means. In a model of economy, most of her essays are only two pages long yet her lines put on parade the sterling discipline and discerning ear that has defined her work for years.

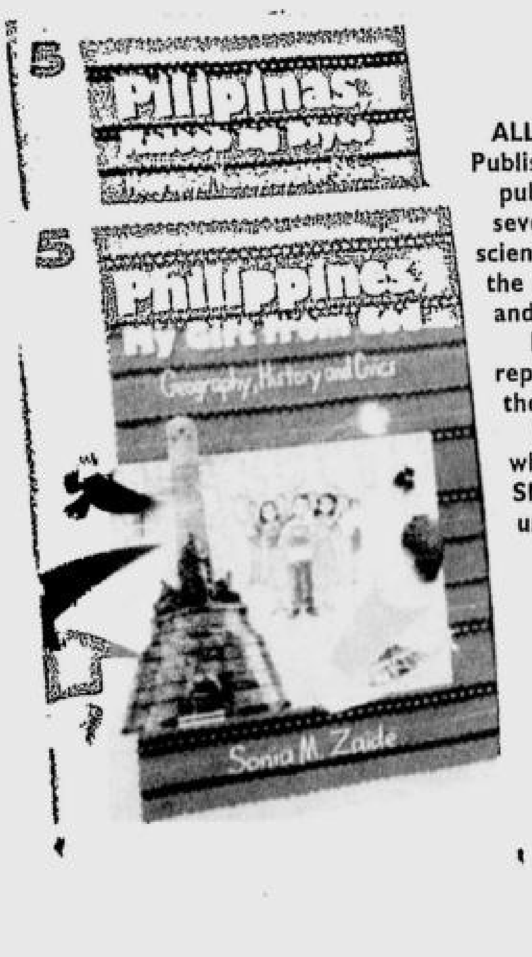
Fascinating

The chapter "Personal History" is particularly fascinating as Nakpil opens up on some notably personal topics, including her own take on writing. The piece titled "Hell's Kitchen," offers an enlightening, enjoyable view of Nakpil's attitudes about racing against the deadline: "My problem with writing is that I don't like doing it. I'd much rather read what other people have written and lie abed all day, surrounded by pillows and tons of newspapers, magazines, computer printouts, books of every kind from everywhere, the BBC on, a telephone at my elbow, beverages containing caffeine and alcohol on hand, soaking up everything, provided it was not written by me."

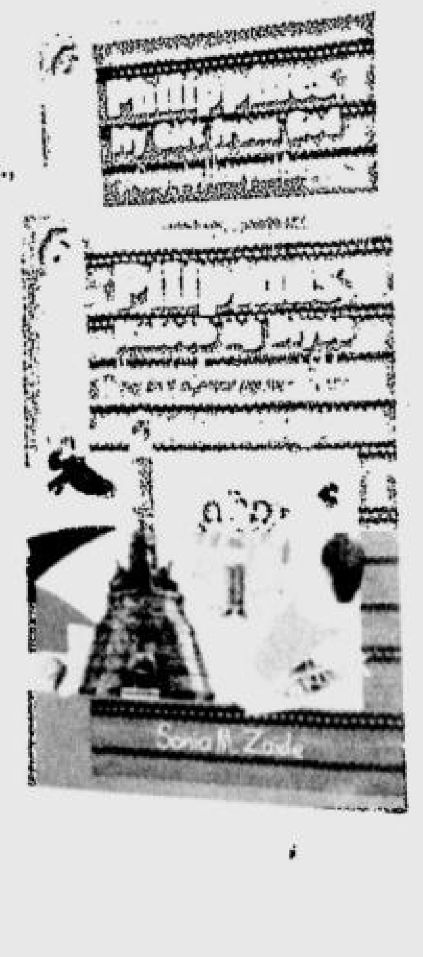
She continues, "I will admit that I have occasionally derived great pleasure from writing vituperative letters to some idiot who has offended me, for instance. Or torrents of passion to someone I had just fallen in love with. But that's it."

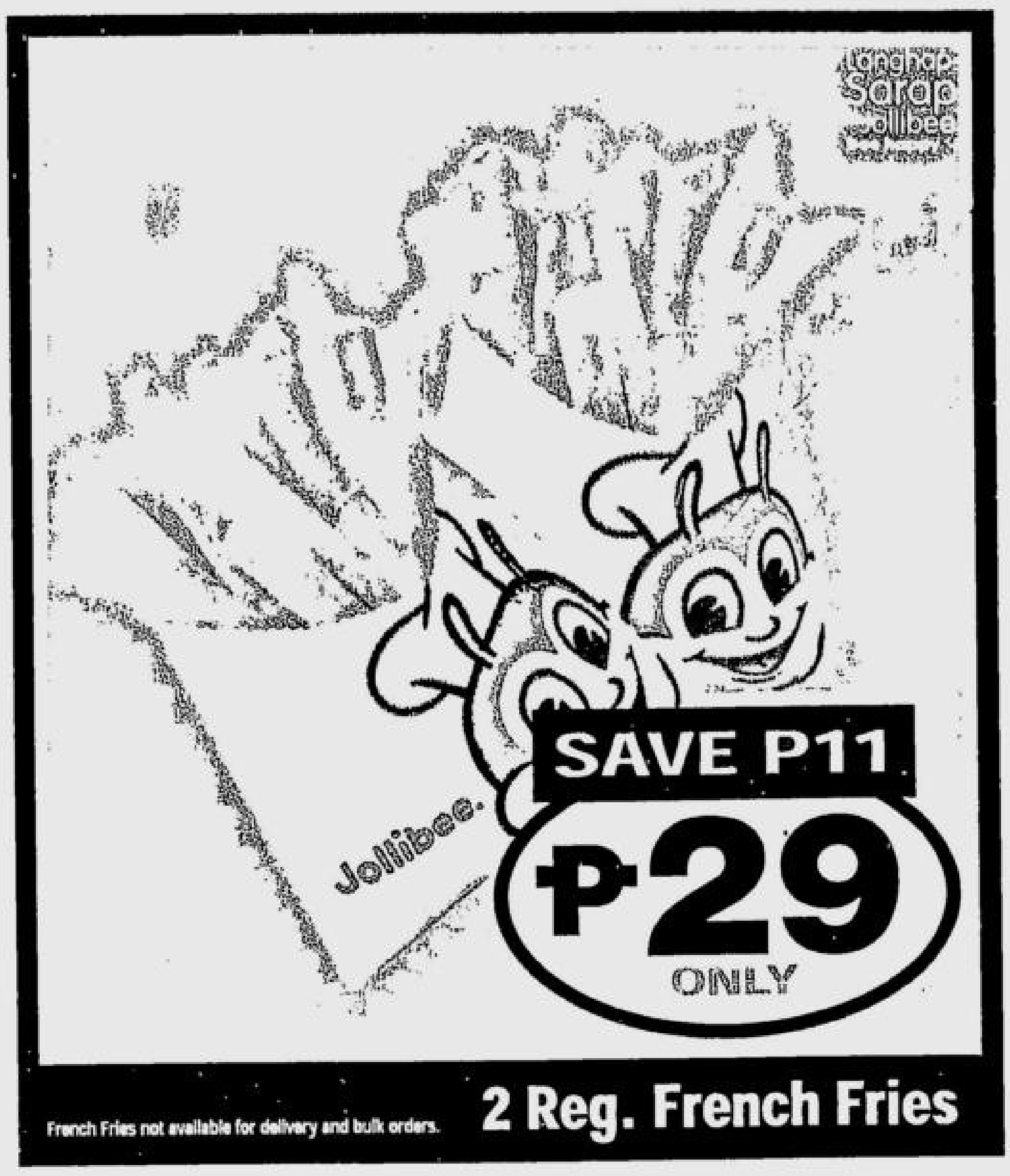
Fortunately, it goes beyond that for us readers. We are indeed luck to have another fresh opportunity to fall in love with these eloquent recent essays by Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, gathered in book form for the first time. Whatever she writes, after all, remains a joy to read.

Available in paperback at leading bookstores



ALL-NATIONS Publishing Co. Inc., publisher of several social science titles for the elementary and secondary levels, is represented at the Philippine Bookfair, which runs at SM Megamall until Sept. 8.





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Langhap Sarap Jollibee
SAVE P8
₱52
ONLY

2 Reg. Yums w/ Cheese

Langhap Sarap Jollibee
SAVE P6
₱52
ONLY

2 Jolly Hotdogs

Ambassador hosts dinner for fellow envoy

AMBASSADOR Enrique and Letty Syquia with Ambassador Domingo and Kay Siazon

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

THE SOCIAL whirl went into high gear again with Ambassador **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia** hosting a dinner for Philippine Ambassador to Japan **Domingo Siazon** and his wife, the elegant **Kay**. Actually, it was a working visit for the indefatigable Kay, who raised a significant amount of money together with the Asia-Pacific Ladies' Friendship (ALFS)-Philippine Embassy, Tokyo, which she chairs, to donate to the Philippine National Red Cross, the Bahay Lingap and San Lazaro Hospital's AIDS Center.

Susana Ople, wife of Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople, and **Ruth Guingona,** wife of Vice President and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona, witnessed the transfer of the money to the beneficiaries, which was done at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Guests at the Syquia dinner were led by Ms Ople, Secretary of Finance **Lito Camacho** and his lovely wife, **Kim**; **Helmut Gaisberger** of Mandarin and vice president of the Johann Strauss Society, of which Mme. Siazon is president; **Louie** and **Mellie Ablaza**, **Paz Yuchengco**, Ambassador **Romeo** and **Tita Mendoza,** and **Penny Farolan**.

The following day, Letty and Kay's dancing group organized a luncheon. Among the guests were Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**; **Imgard Krepela** of Austria; **Mariana Hubbard** of Mexico; our former Ambassador to Spain **Isabel Wilson**, who was happily coasting along until the Polo Club imbroglio happened; **Fortune Ledesma,** with a becoming new hairdo by Manny-who-else; **Narda Camacho**; **Evie Costa**; **Helen Ong**, who was off to London for the wedding of **Mita** and **Tony Rufino**'s daughter, **Tessie Luz**; **Chit Gohu**; **Susan Sandover**; **Czarina** and Mellie Ablaza; **Marietta Holmgren**, **Luz Cullen** and **Kessara Arnold** of the Netherlands.

* * *

PRACTICALLY on her way to the airport, **Helen Ong** hosted a *despedida* lunch at the executive dining room of the Makati Stock Exchange Building for **Sylvia Van Remoortele**, wife of Belgian Ambassador **Roland Van Remoortele.** (The Belgian couple is returning to Brussels before taking up his next posting in Malaysia). Helen's office staff waited at the lobby to escort the guests, which included Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma,** whom we must congratulate for the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership of **Sandeep Pandey**;

AMBASSADOR/ p.E5

MARIANA Hubbard of Mexico, Narda Camacho, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Alice Guerrero

TESSIE Luz

CAMBODIAN Ambassador and Mme. EK Sereywath with Louie Vergon of Air France

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

MME. Kay Siazon and Marietta Santos (first row); Czarina and Letty Syquia (second row); and Luz Cullen, Kessara Arnold of the Netherlands and Nena Casimiro

ANTONY Burgmans, Heherson Alvarez, Ronnie Alejandro, President Macapagal and Howard Beltran

Unilever Philippines marks 75th year with new book on Laguna de Bay

MORE than 400 guests attended the launching of Reynaldo G. Alejandro's new book, "Laguna de Bay: the Living Lake," published by Unilever Philippines in celebration of its 75th year in the Philippines.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the global chairman of Unilever, Antony Burgmans, attended the affair at the Peninsula Hotel recently.

This is the company's second coffee-table book; the first, "Pasig River Of Life," was launched in 2002 under the aegis of Howard David Belton, Unilever Philippines' chairman and CEO, and wife Cristina.

"Laguna de Bay: The Living Lake" was produced in cooperation with Palafox Associates, Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands and the Department of Tourism.

Well-known writers and historians contributed to this new book, which focuses on the history, myths, legend and lore; trade, commerce and industry; arts and artisans; food; the colonial towns and festivities; and its vision of the future.

Historians Bambi Harper, Ambeth Ocampo, Ed Lapiz, Grace Odal-Devora; feature writers Jerry Esplanada, Llita Logarta, Doris Nuyda, Anita Feleo, David Sheniak, Paul Blanco Zafaralla, as well as Roberto Caballero, Jika Mendoza-Dalupan, Cynthia Lazo, Amy Lecciones, Felino Palafox Jr., Romeo Santos and Mike Santos contributed to the book.

Bobby Caballero is the creative director while Orland Punzalan is the art director, with Antonio A. David as illustrator and Peter George Z. Mayshle and Vicente Roman S. Santos as co-production managers. Helen Uy Punzalan is the book's cover designer.

Among the guests were Ambassador Theo Arnold, Ambassador Rafael Gonzalez, Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoñez, Secretary Heherson Alvarez, LLDA general manager and Ms Calix Cataquiz, Sylvia Mayuga, Mon Monzon and Lorraine Schuck, Priscilla Teehankee-Gamboa, Vicky Reyes, Rep. Joey Hizon, Gov. Carmencita O. Reyes, Unilever board and lawyer Sig Siguion-Reyna, Presidential Adviser Obet Pagdanganan, Romulo de los Reyes, Councilors Cita Astals and Lou Veloso, Lina Tanjuatco, Jessie Gatchalian, Peachie Gamboa, Dr. Paraluman Giron, Marixi Prieto and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Grace Glory Go, ABS-CBN broadcasters Angelo Castro and Tina Monzon-Palma, Ethel Timbol, Martin Emile Z. Lopez, Jo Cuyson, Jom and Emma Ruth Yulo Kitiyakara, Roberto Caballero, Roberto Tanizaki, Chona and Ophelia Trinidad, and Cesar Virata and Herbert Sy.

Chito Macapagal, Unilever Philippines' general manager for corporate development, just flew in from South Africa for the Living Lake presentation where he successfully presented Laguna de Bay with LLDA chief Lenny Santos-Borja and SCPW's president Amy Lecciones. The other guests were Roy Gonzalez, Dr. Oding Reyes, Louie and Mellie Ablaza, Pitoy Moreno and Ben Farrales, Donnie Ramirez, Gilbert Perez, Resty Vergara, Odet Alcantara, Karina Bolasco, David and Nelia Son, Jojo and Baby Bunag, Mariter Macapagal, Dr. Tina Macapagal-Sevilla and hubby Buboy Sevilla, Baby Santos, Noel and Lally Laurel, Rosalinda Anido-Gomez, Marla Yotoko Chorengel, Raul Macapagal, Sony Lopez Gonzales, Union board of directors led by Fermi Gibbs Guevarra, Veegee and Rea Sison, Ricky Valdes, Ado Escudero, Romeo Tan Kiang, Marietta Santos, Noel Bautista, Manuel Baldenor, the Blanco family, Francis Raquel-Santos, and Caloy Abrera.

Highlight of the program was the rendition of "Paraiso" by the famous Smokey Mountain soloist Chedi Vergara and Unilever Philippines' Black Theatre Group (comprising Unilever employees) performing a well-applauded theater piece to the delight of the guests.

PITOY Moreno, Leonarda Camacho and Marixi Prieto

PRESIDENT Macapagal, accompanied by Chito Macapagal, meets the Unilever board members and spouses.

Plaza in honor of Mother Francisca, Philippine candidate for sainthood, inaugurated

THE PLAZUELA Madre Francisca was inaugurated last Aug. 24 in celebration of the 291st death anniversary of Mother Francisca del Espiritu Santo, founder of the first Philippine *beaterio-colegio*, which became today's Congregation of Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, otherwise known as the Siena sisters. The congregation, the first Philippine foundation of nuns, has several branches abroad.

The plazuela is located in front of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran on Muralla Street, Intramuros, where Mother Francisca was buried. Also unveiled was the statue of Mother Francisca, a replica of the original statue erected in Intramuros on Aug. 24, 1911 to celebrate the first centenary of Mother Francisca's death. According to the newspaper Libertas at that time, it was the first statue to be erected in honor of a Filipino woman. The original statue was destroyed in the Second World War.

Leading the ceremonies were Mother Aurora Villaverde, O.P., prioress general of the Siena sisters; Mother Ma. Stella Salao, O.P.; Mother Ma. Cecilia J. Calaguas, O.P.; Rowena Padilla Evangelista, MD; Fr. Ernesto Arceo, O.P., the prior provincial of the Philippine Dominican Province; Fr. Fidel Villarroel, O.P., the archivist of the University of Santo Tomas who wrote the *positio* for the beatification of Mother Francisca; and Fr. Jose Martin Sibug, O.P.

Earlier, the Siena sisters held a vigil at 2 a.m., the hour when Mother Francisca passed away. At 4 p.m., a high Mass was held at the Letran chapel, with Bishop Crisostomo Yalung as celebrant. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza attended the Mass.

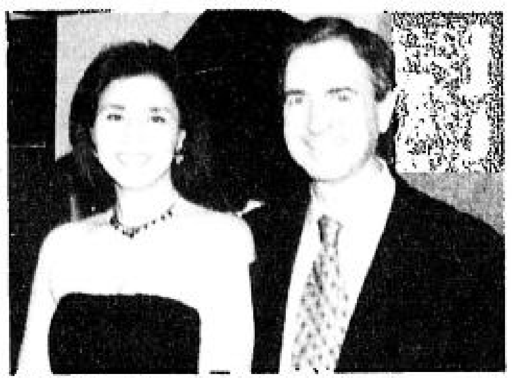
The activities launched the decade-long Tercentennial Celebration of the Death of Mother Francisca (1711-2011). The Vatican has given the go-signal for the start of the process for the beatification of Mother Francisca.

PHILIPPINE Dominican Province prior provincial Fr. Ernesto Arceo, O.P., and University of Santo Tomas archivist Fr. Fidel Villarroel, O.P., unveil the marker of the plazuela.

DOMINADOR Ferrer of the Intramuros Administration, assisted by Sr. Ma. Jesusa Enginco, O.P., Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, O.P., Dino Nable of City Hall and Augusto Rustia, cuts the ceremonial ribbon.

THE BEATERIO de Santa Catalina, founded in 1694, beside the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, circa 1936

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza leads the participants in the Mass in honor of Mother Francisca.



TINA Bautista and Ambassador Tomas Pantoja of Spain

Ambassador . . .

From page E4

Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, **Imgard Krepela**, **Agnes Dek**, **Letty Syquia**, **Neelam Sarmad**, Dr. **Fumian Su**, **Micheline Jess** and **Mariana Hubbard**.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY, due to pressing state matters, **H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh**, president of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, couldn't come for the premiere showing of his movie, "Raj Borei" (Royal City), at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The special screening, part of the Asean film festival, was a real treat for the guests who got a ringside view of Angkor Wat and learned of the king's desire to preserve and conserve this World Heritage site, in danger not only from the elements but from unscrupulous antique hunters.

Who was at the screening? Well, there was the newest addition to our roster of lady ambassadors, Her Excellency **Hajah Maimunha Dato Haji Elias** from Brunei, and her husband, **Baharuddin Bin Dato Haji Talib**. She brings to eight the number of women ambassadors to the Philippines, I believe. Switzerland, apparently, is also sending us a woman ambassador soon. As you know, Chile, Venezuela, Australia, India, Israel, Thailand and France have lovely lady envoys in the Philippines. Also at the film showing were Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja** with **Tina Bautista**; **Louie Vergon**, GM of Air France; **Tessie Luz**, **Helen Ong** and **Letty Syquia**; Mr. and Ms **Peter Casaulta**, deputy chief of Mission of the Swiss Embassy; Sri Lanka's Ambassador and Mme. **P.G. Karunasiri**, Lao **Ambassador P. Philakone**; **Richard Pruett** of the US Embassy; **Manuel Suarez** of the Manila Rubber Corp.; and lawyer **Arnel Jose Bañas**, deputy secretary of the Senate of the Philippines.

Bulacan throws a party

BULACAN is the home of great heroes, artists and achievers. Its patriots include Gregorio del Pilar, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Marciano Ponce, Esteban Tasi, who was executed with other Bulakeño chieftains in 1587; Felipe Salonga, who started the revolt of the Bulakeños against the Spaniards; and Simon de Anda, who drove away the British from Bulacan and helped prevent the spread of their short-lived rule in the 1760s. It is also where the Malolos Congress and the Second Philippine Republic were established under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Bulacan also nurtured the greatest artists of our times—Nicanor Abelardo, Guillermo Tolentino, Atang de la Rama, Amado V. Hernandez, Jose Corazon de Jesus, Francisco Balagtas, Gerry de Leon and Francisca Reyes-Aquino, among others.

"We are very proud of this rich heritage and we know the past and recent histories of this country will not be complete without mentioning the bravery, creativity or resiliency of Bulakeños," says Bulacan Gov. Josie Mendoza-de la Cruz.

Indeed, this province has been blessed with both natural and human resources. The province, the governor proudly notes, has one of the strongest economies in the country, thus attracting a lot of migrants from other provinces.

"I attribute this to the Bulakeños' enterprising spirit. Visit the 24 towns of Bulacan and you'll see a lot of small businesses on every street, on every corner. The Bulakeño is most proud of being able to make it on his own, no matter how difficult."

To celebrate all these, the "Linggo ng Bulacan" will be held on Sept. 8-15 with the theme "Kakayahan at Galing ng Bulakenyo, Maipagmamalaki ng Lahing Pilipino."

Among the activities are Hapag Bulakenyo Food Festival/Competition, to be participated in by restaurants, canteens and catering services (Sept. 15, 9 a.m., Barasoain Church); Bulakeño Artists Exhibit, which will be participated in by artists from Lakansining ng Bulacan, Bahaghari ng Malolos, Paombong Art Circle, Hagonoy Art Group, Baliwag Art Association, Sining Obando, Sta. Maria Batingaw Art Circle and Artes Indios ng Sapangpalay.

In Lakbay Aral, about 4,000 high school students will participate in the tour of Marcelo H. del Pilar Shrine, Barasoain Church, Casa Real, Basilica Minore, Bulacan Museum. There will also be a Toy Band competition (Sept. 9, 1 p.m., Bulacan Capitol Gym); Aerial Fireworks Display Competition (Sept. 9, 7 p.m., Bulacan Sports Complex, Sta. Isabel, Malolos); Night Market in Poblacion, Baliuag (Sept. 9-15, 4 p.m.-12 a.m.); "Paligsahan ng may K," a paralympics for the disabled (Sept. 10, 8 a.m., Bulacan Sports Complex); street dancing (Sept. 13, 8 a.m., from the Capitol to Barasoain); "Alay Lakad," to be led by Gov. Josie M. de la Cruz (Sept. 11, 6 a.m., Pulilan); cheering competition, where nine high schools and two colleges will compete (Sept. 11, 1 p.m., Bulacan Capitol Gym); "Araw ng Magsasaka at Mangingisda" (Sept. 12, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., San Ildefonso); Lakan at Lakambini (Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Halili Gym, Sta. Maria); and Jobs Fair (Sept. 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Provincial Capitol).

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WIN ₱1.5 MILLION WITH PEPSI 1.5 LITER!

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Two Timezone Games

Mechanics

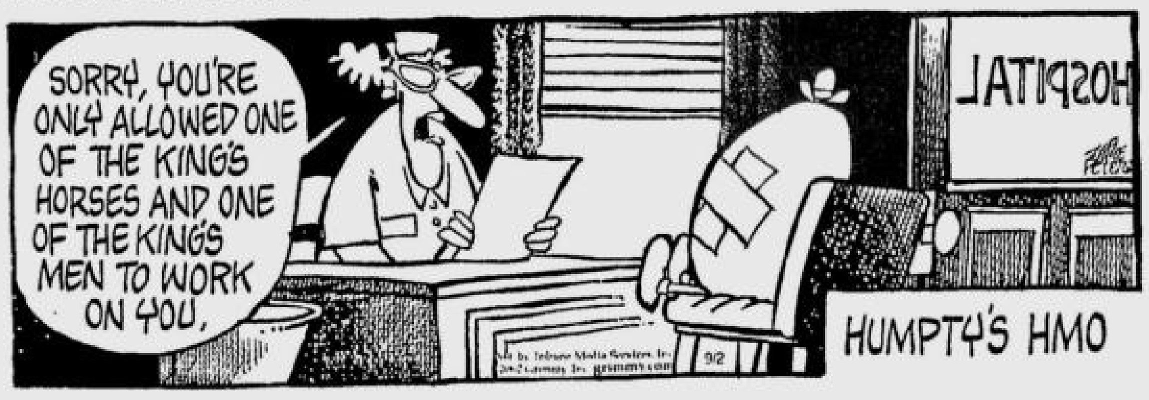
1. Winners of the Pepsi Eon card may claim their prize at any Unionbank branch or call the Unionbank Hotline 84186 (within Metro Manila) or the domestic toll free number 1-800-1888-2277 (outside Metro Manila). Winners should bring two (2) valid IDs, Community Tax Certificate (CTC) and the winning label for authentication at the Unionbank branch. Winners younger than 12 years old, should be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
2. Winners of two (2) non-redemption Timezone games must bring the winning label to any Timezone branch in Metro Manila.
3. All winning labels are subject to authentication by personnel of Unionbank, Timezone, or Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. (PCPPI). Labels must bear the violator and must appear to have gone through the shrinking process. 90% of the label must be intact, consisting of complete Pepsi logo, violator and inside prize. Decisions made by Unionbank, Timezone, or PCPPI are final.
4. All prizes are tax free and non-transferable. Winners of the Pepsi Eon Card may only win once. Should they win twice, they will have to forfeit the lesser value prize.
5. PCPPI and Pepsico Beverages International (PBI) employees, their advertising and media agencies, third party suppliers and service providers and BFAD employees as well as their relatives up to the second degree consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
6. Promo coverage is from September 2 to October 31, 2002 and valid in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog (except Palawan), and Northern Luzon. Last day of redemption is December 30, 2002.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0650. Series of 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2002

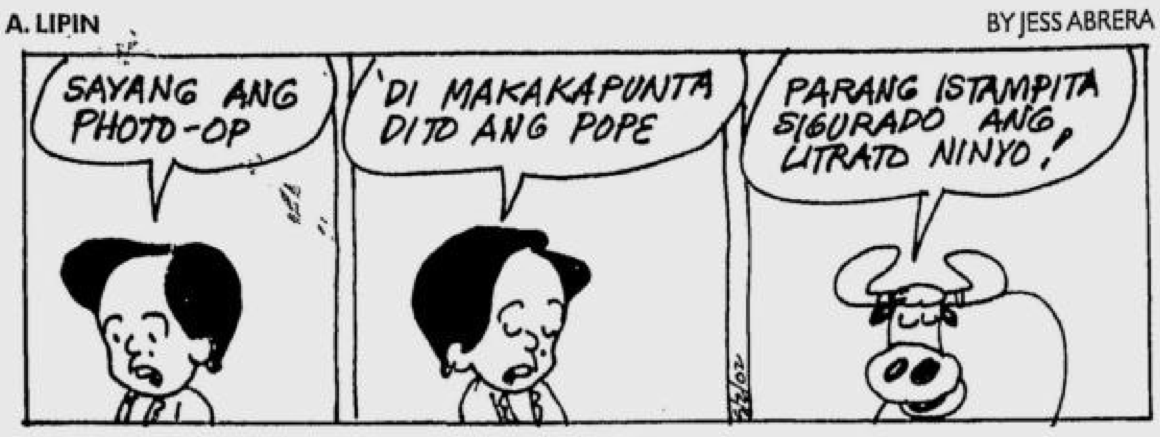
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SORRY, YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED ONE OF THE KING'S HORSES AND ONE OF THE KING'S MEN TO WORK ON YOU,
HOSPITAL
HUMPTY'S HMO
9/2

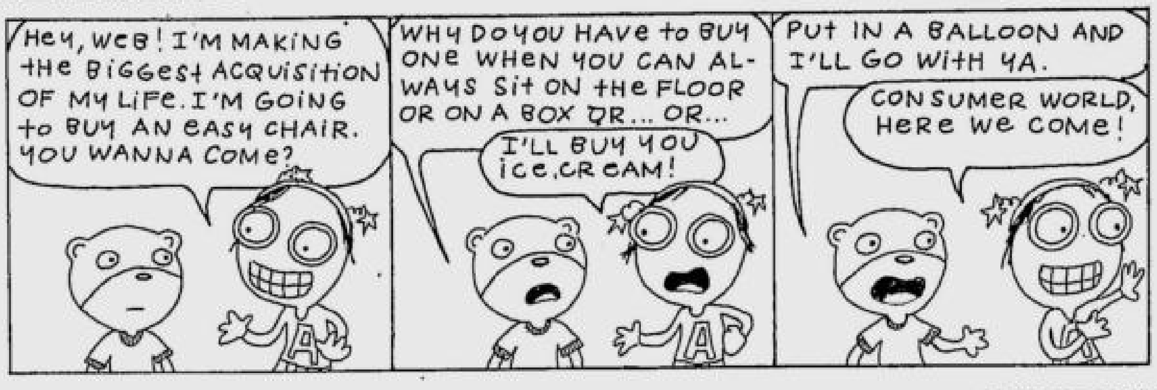
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SAYANG ANG PHOTO-OP
'DI MAKAKAPUNTA DITO ANG POPE
PARANG ISTAMPITA SIGURADO ANG LITRATO NINYO!

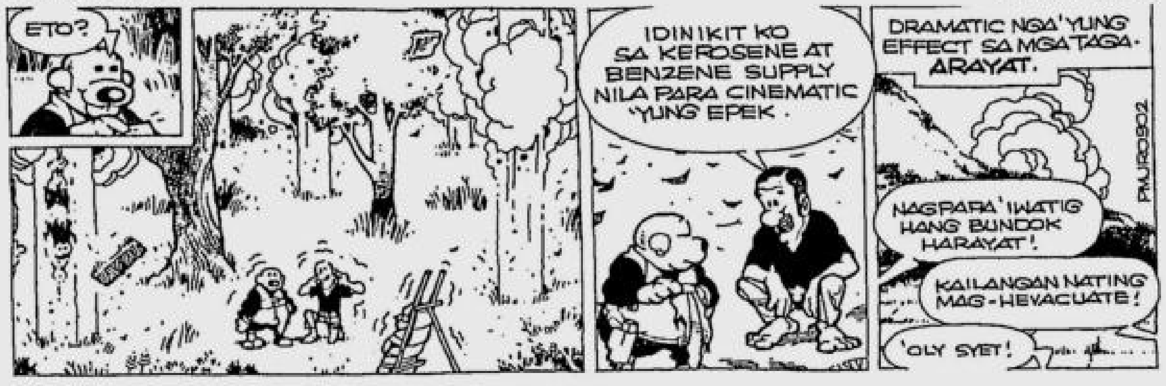
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, WEB! I'M MAKING THE BIGGEST ACQUISITION OF MY LIFE. I'M GOING TO BUY AN EASY CHAIR. YOU WANNA COME?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BUY ONE WHEN YOU CAN ALWAYS SIT ON THE FLOOR OR ON A BOX OR... OR...
I'LL BUY YOU ICE CREAM!
PUT IN A BALLOON AND I'LL GO WITH YA.
CONSUMER WORLD, HERE WE COME!

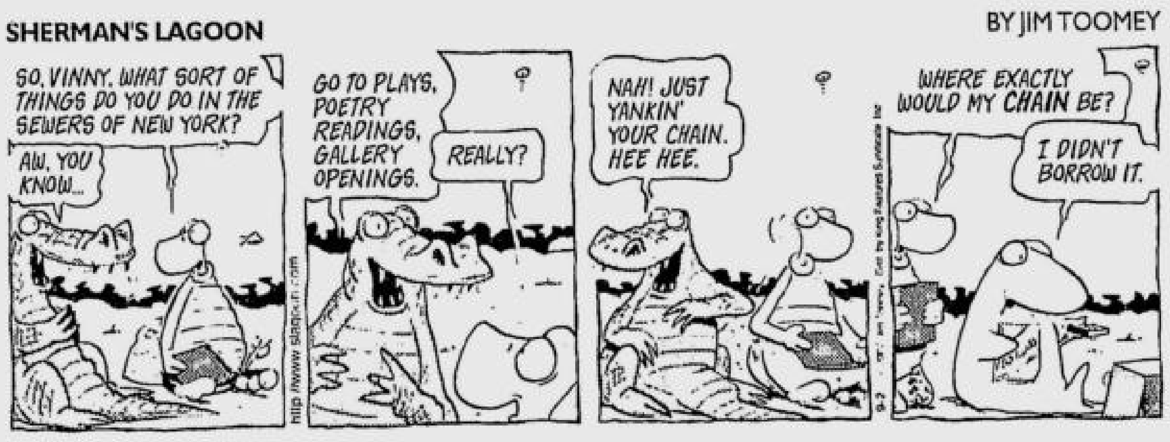
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ETO?
IDINIKIT KO SA KEROSENE AT BENZENE SUPPLY NILA PARA CINEMATIC 'YUNG EPEK.
DRAMATIC NGA 'YUNG EFFECT SA MGA TAGA-ARAYAT.
NAGPARA' IWATIG HANG BUNDOK HARAYAT!
KAILANGAN NATING MAG-HEVACUATE!
'OLY SYET!
PMJR0902

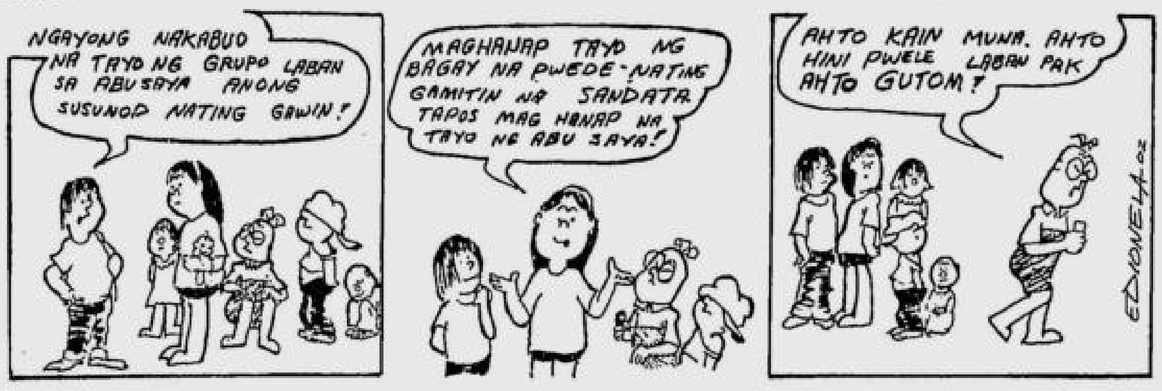
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, VINNY. WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU DO IN THE SEWERS OF NEW YORK?
AW, YOU KNOW...
GO TO PLAYS, POETRY READINGS, GALLERY OPENINGS.
REALLY?
NAH! JUST YANKIN' YOUR CHAIN. HEE HEE.
WHERE EXACTLY WOULD MY CHAIN BE?
I DIDN'T BORROW IT.

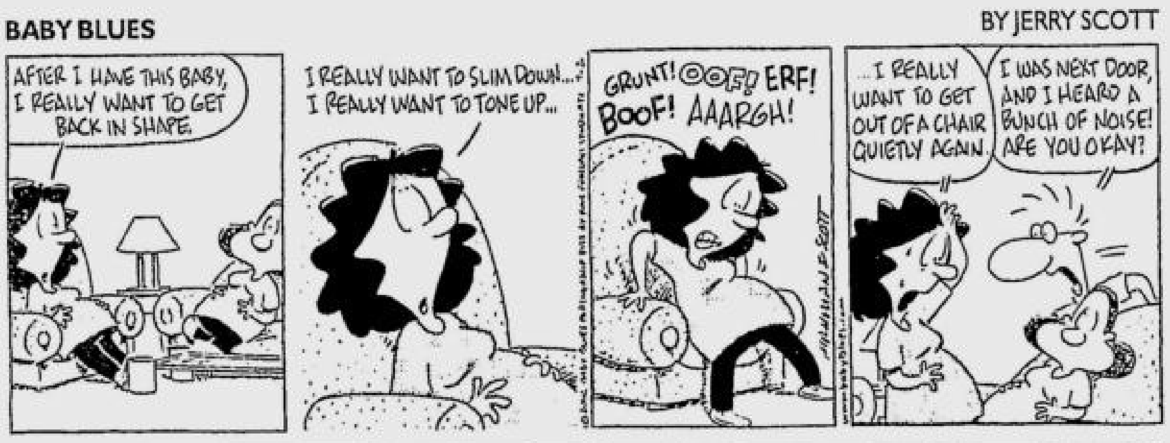
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NGAYONG NAKABUO NA TAYO NG GRUPO LABAN SA ABUSAYA ANONG SUSUNOD NATING GAWIN!
MAGHANAP TAYO NG BAGAY NA PWEDE NATING GAMITIN NA SANDATA TAPOS MAG HANAP NA TAYO NG ABU SAYA!
AHTO KAIN MUNA. AHTO HINI PWELE LABAN PAK AHTO GUTOM!
EDIONELA 02

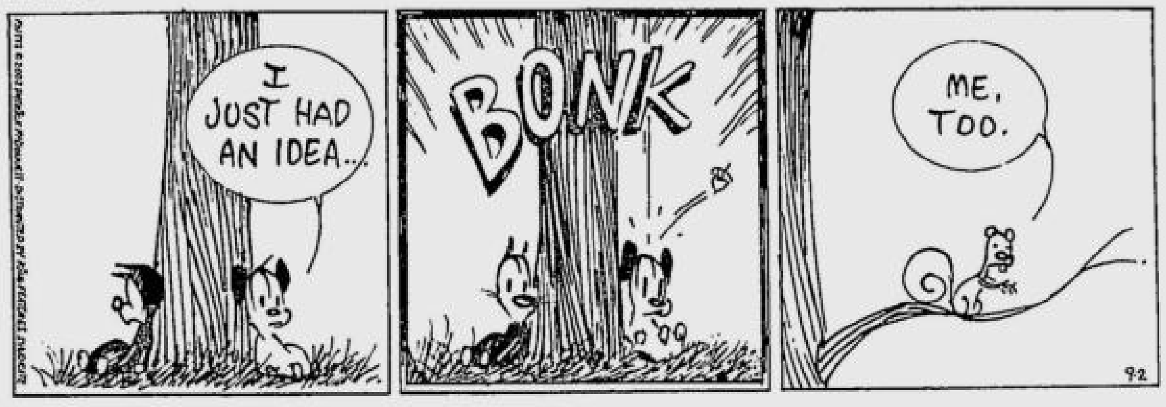
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AFTER I HAVE THIS BABY, I REALLY WANT TO GET BACK IN SHAPE.
I REALLY WANT TO SLIM DOWN...I REALLY WANT TO TONE UP...
GRUNT! OOF! ERF! BOOF! AAARGH!
...I REALLY WANT TO GET OUT OF A CHAIR QUIETLY AGAIN.
I WAS NEXT DOOR, AND I HEARD A BUNCH OF NOISE! ARE YOU OKAY?

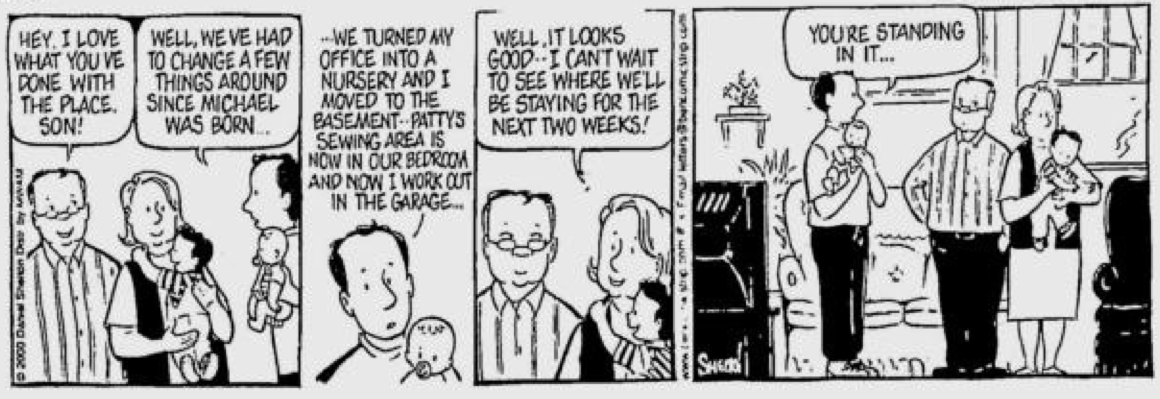
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I JUST HAD AN IDEA...
BONK
ME, TOO.
9-2

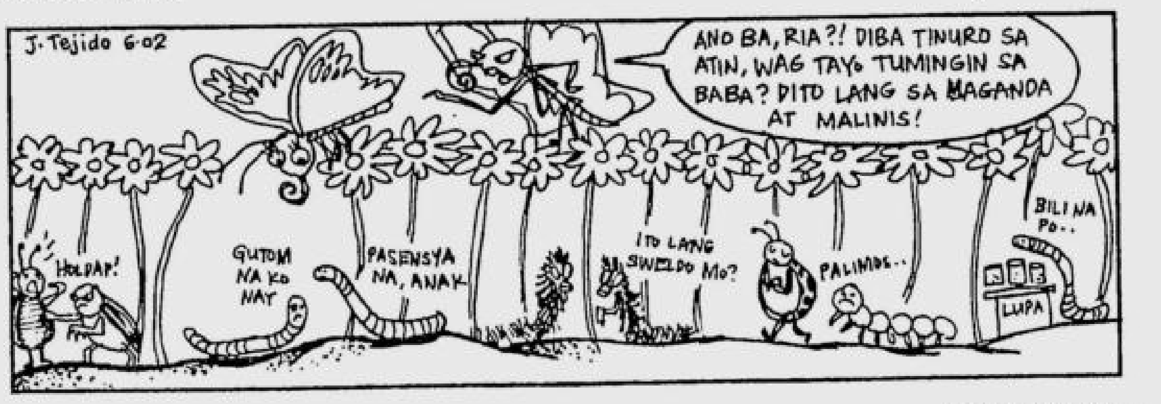
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY, I LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE, SON!
WELL, WE'VE HAD TO CHANGE A FEW THINGS AROUND SINCE MICHAEL WAS BORN...
...WE TURNED MY OFFICE INTO A NURSERY AND I MOVED TO THE BASEMENT...PATTY'S SEWING AREA IS NOW IN OUR BEDROOM AND NOW I WORK OUT IN THE GARAGE...
WELL, IT LOOKS GOOD...I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHERE WE'LL BE STAYING FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS!
YOU'RE STANDING IN IT...

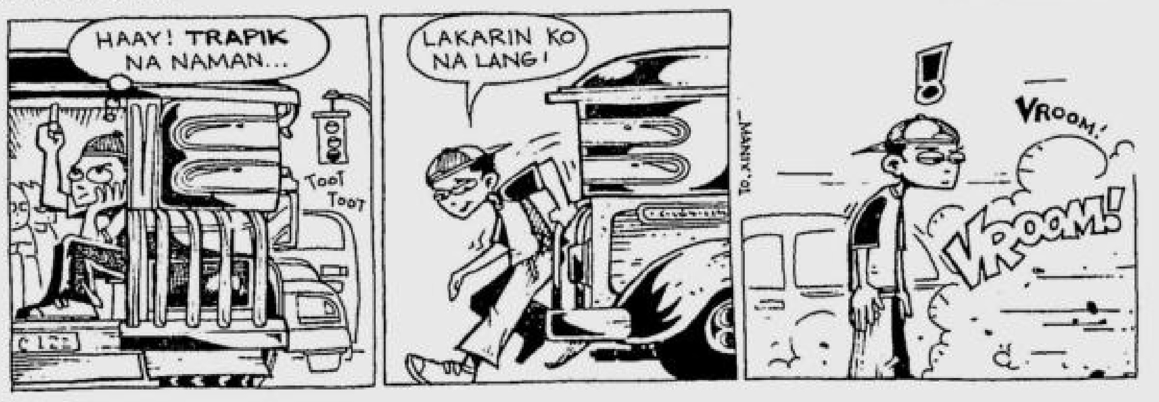
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J. Tejido 6-02
ANO BA, RIA?! DIBA TINURO SA ATIN, WAG TAYO TUMINGIN SA BABA? DITO LANG SA MAGANDA AT MALINIS!
HOLDAP!
GUTOM NA KO NAY
PASENSYA NA, ANAK
ITO LANG SWELDO MO?
PALIMOS...
BILI NA PO...
LUPA

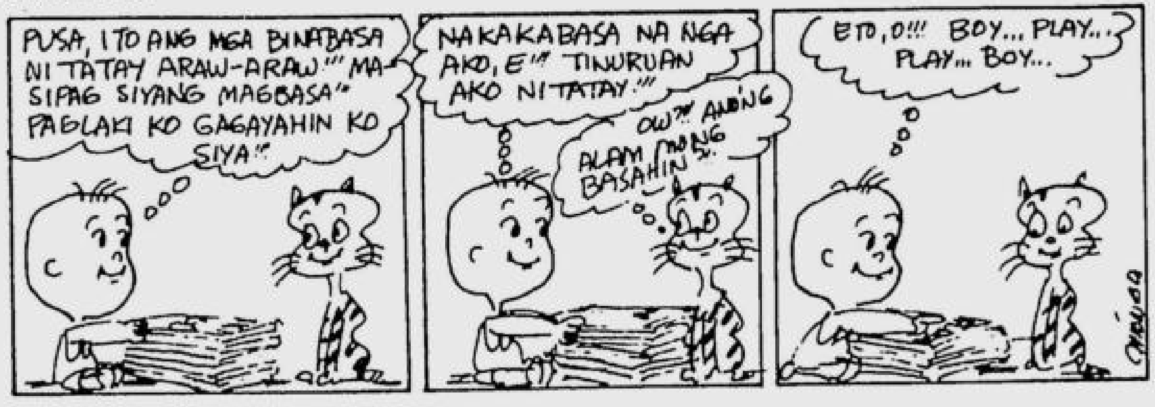
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAY! TRAPIK NA NAMAN...
TOOT TOOT
LAKARIN KO NA LANG!
VROOM!
VROOM!

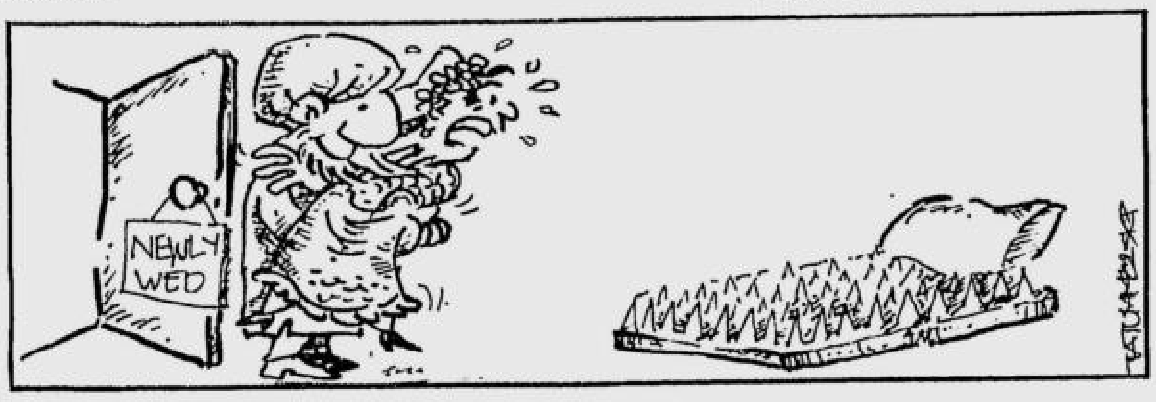
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, ITO ANG MGA BINABASA NI TATAY ARAW-ARAW!!! MASIPAG SIYANG MAGBASA!! PAGLAKI KO GAGAYAHIN KO SIYA!!
NAKAKABASA NA NGA AKO, E!! TINURUAN AKO NI TATAY!!!
OW!! ALAM MO ANG BASAHIN?
ETO, O!!! BOY... PLAY... PLAY... BOY...

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jimmy Connors, Mark Harmon, Terry Bradshaw, Keanu Reeves

Happy Birthday: You can make things happen if you put your mind to it. You will regain the confidence you once had if you trust in yourself and your abilities. You will have added energy this year do things far beyond your expectations. The more you concentrate on productivity, the more you will accomplish. Your numbers are 3, 5, 12, 17, 32

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You need to surround yourself with insightful and attentive friends who can help you to make some decisions. Keep an eye on co-workers who might try to take advantage of you

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For you, money is currently in that come-and-go phase. Since it's hard to keep tabs on right now, it's better to avoid lending.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ambiguities in the love department could be lacerating to your inner soul, so try to get the straight story from your mate. A good chat is in order and will lead to answers that can clear matters up quickly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time for a shift in plans and direction since your life is in transition. As a result, adjustments are necessary. Just remember it's OK to change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel eager to enjoy some whimsical brand of festivity, but this time it's advisable to make a plan first. Visiting distant friends may be just the key to making a few new ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you can manage to keep your private affairs to yourself, your peers are likely to present fewer problems. Have some discretion regarding secret affairs in the workplace, because it's all more complicated than it looks

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's advantageous to use your social grace right now--desirable stuff is finally within reach. A housemate may be irritating, but remember that a little sympathy never hurts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Invest some cash prudently. You are quickly improving your financial dealings, so try to remember to be helpful to those who need your support.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Socializing is in order. Your well-being may be disrupted if your lover refrains from stimulating you enough. Avoid staying in situations that seem to get perpetually worse. It's time to reevaluate your situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Jumping at opportunities is a good idea; you may just land yourself a better job. Since you're so adaptable lately, you ought not let your lover's antics get under your skin. Listen to the recommendation of good friends.

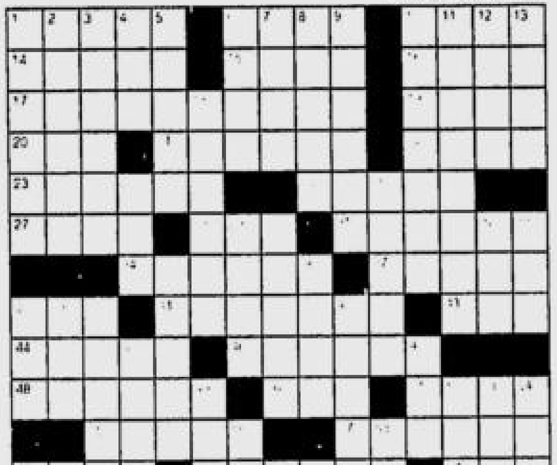
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Playing with kids will guarantee that you'll have some fun. It is also a good time to get started on all those personal changes you've been contemplating.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself if it's regarding money. Your financial position is about to improve if you put your ideas into motion. The talks you have with someone who is knowledgeable will open your eyes to a new way of doing things.

Birthday Baby: You will be entertaining and very intelligent. You always have a solution for any problem .

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

9/2/02

ACROSS
1 Analyze ore
6 Gee!
10 Pass over
14 Dem or Ashley
15 Pro __ (in proportion)
16 Mexican money
17 Machine with a ribbon
19 Singer Lovett
20 Cool or groovy
21 Lower
22 Yeah, sure!
23 Sign up
25 Dance club
27 Adds years
28 End hunger
31 Workout wear
34 Hollyhock or hibiscus
37 Swashbuckler Flynn
38 Sch. org.
41 Prevailing condition
43 Susan of "L.A. Law"
44 Phone greeting
46 Beliefs
48 Expel from a country
50 Dignitary in DC
51 "Planet of the __"
55 Peer recognition
57 Climb
59 Jacuzzis
61 Disavow
64 The Most Trusted Name in Electronics
65 Service-station job
66 Tab-brackets separators
68 Iowa State city
69 Ubangi feeder
70 Wear away
71 Power unit
72 Kett of old comics
73 Opposing teams

DOWN
1 Gibson of tennis
2 Adage
3 Pliant
4 Exist
5 Gapes
6 Pluck
7 Solemn vow
8 Peel's partner
9 Ed or Emmylou
10 Tape editor
11 Personal computer element
12 Man or Dogs
13 Ginsberg or Frost
18 Pass gossip
24 Ending for a belief
26 Sugary
29 Dismounted
30 Encyclopedia set, e.g.
32 Shoe part
33 Furtive
35 Squirrel snack
36 Taper off
38 MA follower, perhaps
39 PGA peg
40 Language symbols
42 Rent payer
45 Most limber
47 U.S. defense grp.
49 Twisting force
52 Era
53 Put into a cipher
54 Stirrup bone
56 Drench once again
58 Eyelid woes
59 Deli side
60 Large wildcat
62 Breton, e.g.
63 Environs
67 William Tell's canton

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	M	A	S	H	■	D	I	S	P	A	R	A	G	E
L	I	L	L	E	■	O	S	C	U	L	A	T	E	D
A	N	D	O	R	■	C	L	A	R	I	N	E	T	S
N	E	A	T	O	■	S	E	N	E	C	A	■	■	■
G	O	S	S	I	P	■	■	■	■	E	C	R	U	S
■	■	■	■	C	A	R	E	S	S	■	R	U	N	E
M	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	C	E	■	O	N	C	E
A	P	E	X	■	A	P	R	O	N	■	S	O	L	D
T	R	A	P	■	W	A	L	T	D	I	S	N	E	Y
T	I	N	E	■	S	Y	S	T	E	M	■	■	■	■
S	Q	U	A	R	E	■	■	■	R	I	A	T	A	S
■	■	■	T	A	L	E	N	T	■	T	R	A	M	P
S	A	N	I	T	A	R	I	A	■	A	R	U	B	A
P	R	E	S	I	D	I	N	G	■	T	O	P	E	R
A	T	T	E	N	D	E	E	S	■	E	W	E	R	S

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9/2/02

The 'Other' at the Cinemanila 2002's screenwriting contest

By Jose Wendell P. Capili
Contributor

CINEMANILA 2002 International Film Festival's screenwriting competition attracted over 200 screenplays from amateur and professional scriptwriters all over the country.

Seven preliminary jurors screened the entries. They included critic Gino Dormiendo, GMA 7's "Unang Hirit" and "Debate" director Dodge Dillague, UP geography teacher Joseph Palis, UP Film Center programmer Nonoy Lauzon, critic Noel Vera, and this writer. Without knowing the real identity of the authors, each preliminary juror had the most difficult task of trimming the 200-plus entries down to the final 12.

The preliminary jurors handed over their decision to the screenwriting competition's grand jury, composed of film director Jeffrey Jeturian, screenwriter Armando Lao, INQUIRER editor-critic and UST professor Lito Zulueta, Dormiendo and this writer, an academic.

Many people probably wonder how the preliminary and final jurors decided on their respective choices. More or less, each juror took into consideration the basic elements of screenwriting: premise, plot, structure, dialogue and resolution. In addition, the jurors also considered the principles of universality of theme, cultural correctness, value realism, social relevance, efficacy of format as well as craftsmanship (film language, techniques, approaches and orientation).

Finalists

After numerous discussions, the following were selected as finalists: "Rosas Peligrosas" (a narrative on two UP students with grand dreams about their future beyond graduation), "Buyong" (a tale delineating how talismans aided leaders in liberating many towns in Aklan during revolutionary movement against Spain), "Jose Rizal's Noli Me Tangere" (an anime version of the classic Filipino novel), "Cut" (a satire on Philippine politics and beauty pageants), "Ugat Nating Lahat" (the saga of Feliza Aduarte-Sumulong, a pre-World War II theater actress, and the Philippine revolutionary movement against America), "Mga Walang Lamang Aparador" (about the gender angst of five young men trapped in a role-conscious society), "No Love Lost" (the contrasting narratives of two sisters and their respective struggles to transcend their inadequacies), "Andres Bonifacio: Tatlumpong Araw ni Gregoria de Jesus" (a weaving of Gregoria de Jesus' diary that contextualizes the events leading to Bonifacio's execution in Maragondon, Cavite), "Martial Law Babies" (a story delineating the transformation of five kids against the backdrop of a changing Philippine landscape during the early 1970s), "Window" (the life and times of Wallstreet's White de la Cruz, a Filipino-American tycoon), "Biyahe ng Pangarap" (an adaptation of Gilda Cordero Fernando's Palanca prize-winning story, "The Morning before Us"), "Hocloban" (a gothic tale revolving around a mythological figure feared and resented by the early occupants of the archipelago) and "Dilim" (the narrative of a tutor who uncovers the strange behavior of her two wards).

What is incredible is that each script possesses a very strong Philippine viewpoint. In addition, the scripts mostly revolve around an individual who is simultaneously a part of a minority and excluded from it. Overtly and otherwise, the social milieu in these scripts does not serve as a mere environment or background. Each protagonist is contained within a cramped space that compels a connection between individual needs and politics. The political domain has clearly contaminated the personal statements of each screenwriter.

Offhand, I can imagine the indignation of entrants who didn't make it to the final 12. But the result of this year's competition is not a confirmation or negation of one's talent. There were too many distinctive entries this year. Somebody had to win and the jurors privileged breadth and scope in naming their final choices.

Because of the very tight competition, two entries shared the grand jury prize. Two other entries were also awarded special jury prizes. When the envelope containing the real names of the prize-winning entries was unsealed, it turned out that Jordan-based advertising creative director James Ladioray ("Cut") tied with prize-winning actor, screenwriter and director Mario O'Hara ("Hocloban") for the P800,000 Cinemanila grand jury prize.

Iloilo-based young writer Peter Solis Nery ("Buyong") tied with multiawarded playwright and director Anton Juan ("Ugat Nating Lahat") for the special jury prize. They each received P50,000.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, through the initiative of Metro Manila Development Authority head Bayani Fernando, has made provisions for the release of this year's screenwriting competition cash prizes.

The finalists were given the privilege to market their ideas to producers and directors from around the globe through a roundtable conference held last Aug. 12-14 at the Asian Institute of Management. A French producer, for instance, has taken an interest in Ladioray's prizewinning script "Cut."

Understanding marginality as a position and place of resistance is very important for nations with postcolonial experience. The collective "despair" of Cinemanila 2002's Screenwriting Competition winners and finalists now fully participate in the construction of a discourse about the "Other."

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The writer, who studied at UST, UP-Diliman, University of Tokyo and University of Cambridge, is the associate dean of the UP College of Arts and Letters.

The Varsitarian marks 75th year

THE VARSITARIAN, the long-running official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold a grand alumni homecoming titled "ValikVarsi 75" on Dec. 14 to celebrate its diamond anniversary.

The Varsitarian will also host reunions on all four Saturdays of September to convene alumni in small groups. Alumni from 1928 to 1960 shall meet on Sept. 7, alumni of the '70s on Sept. 14, alumni of the '80s on Sept. 21, and alumni of the '90s up to the new century on Sept. 28.

All alumni here and abroad are invited. Alumni information may be forwarded to the Varsitarian, c/o Edumar Madlangbayan, at Room 112, UST Main Building, University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila, or through 731-3101 local 8235 (telefax); or e-mail valikvarsi@yahoo.com or call (0917) 830-2944.

'Be Not Afraid' the CD to be released

be afraid
St. Louis Jesuits

AFTER we learned our first prayers, and before we grew confident enough to pray and sing in our own tongue, we gave voice to our faith using songs such as "You Are Near," "One Bread, One Body" and "Here I Am, Lord." Generations of Catholics grew up in their faith surrounded by the songs of the Saint Louis Jesuits. Even now, these songs still evoke the presence of a God who knew us before we were born, whose love is faithful forever, who walks with us though we may be afraid.

The Jesuit Music Ministry of the Jesuit Communications Foundation is proud to present the latest in Bro. Arnel Aquino, S.J.'s Lauds series, "Lauds 6: Be Not Afraid."

In this latest Lauds, Aquino once again weaves the magic of his fingers upon the piano, this time leading us to find God using the songs of the Saint Louis Jesuits. With songs such as "Be Not Afraid," "Yahweh, the Faithful One," we come to know a God whose love will withstand all pain and loneliness. We raise our voices in thanks and praise with "Let Heaven Rejoice," "Sing a New Song" and "Sing to the Mountains." These songs have accompanied us in prayer and worship since our youth, and now, years after, they come to us again to guide our journey once more .

For those of us who have "passed through raging waters," who have "walked amidst the burning flames" and "crossed the barren deserts" of our lives, Aquino offers rest and reassurance, as his music speaks—and speaks without words—of a God who tells us: "Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come, follow me, and I will give you rest."

"Lauds 6: Be Not Afraid," as well as the rest of the Lauds series, is distributed nationwide by BMG Pilipinas. It will be launched on Sept. 13 at the Church of the Gesu in the Ateneo de Manila University.

Book on rosary devotion released

MEGABOOKS Company has just released "Praying and Living the Rosary with Mary."

The handbook offers a wealth of information on the rosary in a clear, easy to understand and handy format. This will be a great help to parents in building a family culture revolving around the rosary.

This book brings together original material written by Josefina Atienza-Salvaña for the Children's Rosary Foundation (CRF) about personalities prominently associated with the rosary, such as St. Louis de Montfort; St. Lucia, one of the three Fatima children; Fr. Patrick Peyton, founder of the Family Rosary Crusade; Pope John Paul II and other popes; Jaime Cardinal Sin, Bishop Socrates B. Villegas, Fr. Charles Belmonte, and former Philippine ambassador to the Vatican Howard O. Dee. Cardinal Sin has given the book an imprimatur.

In his foreword, Bishop Villegas calls the book "'Good News' for our time!" He cites the value of the book in the face of threats facing the family. He adds the book will help enable Filipino youth to find "in their families still their secure ground and both true hope and life-giving love" through the grace "given by God to our people, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother."

The author is the founder and chair of CRF, which was founded in 1997 to help bring God's love to the children of all nations through and with Mary and the rosary. The foundation produces and distributes rosaries, rosary guides, tape cassettes and music sheets, and other teaching materials to help parents, catechists and teachers instruct children on the rosary.

Megabooks has also released "Each Home A Little Chapel: A Songbook for the Family," which features compositions that have been included in an album of the same title produced by Star Records Inc.

The books are available in hardcover (handbook P500, songbook P240) at National Bookstore. They may also be ordered through CRF (tel. 920-1325), Megabooks Co. (tel. 911-3061), and Star Records Inc. (tel. 415-2272 local 3417).

FAMILY HEALTH MATTERS
by Mancel Laxa-Pangilinan

CHOOSING WHAT MEDICINE WORKS BEST FOR YOU

It's always good to be a buddy to our body. After all, it is the only one we've got.

I make it a point to tune in on what my body is trying to tell me. Fatigue simply means I should not overextend myself anymore as my body needs to rest and recharge. Allergies mean my system does not agree with something in my environment or with what I have just ingested. Fever is my body's way of saying I have some kind of illness or infection brewing inside of me.

Understanding our body signals helps us function better. And so, it pays to be sensitive to how our body reacts to outside stimuli, to things we do and to anything we take in…especially medicines.

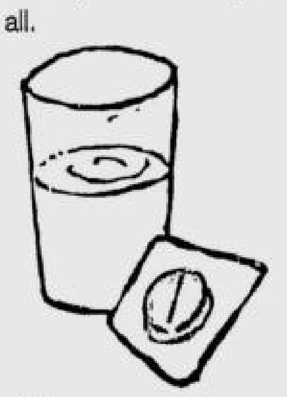
The question to ask is – are all headache medicines safe to take?

As a rule, I am very careful about the medicines I take or give to my family, having grown up with a mom who was concerned about their possible side effects.

Take, for example, headache relievers. There are a variety of them in the market today – in various forms, colors and generic names. They come in different degrees of potency and efficacy. But the question to ask is – are all headache medicines safe to take?

The answer differs from person to person. This is where knowing your body well comes in real handy. It is always best to stick to the one you've tried and tested already. Something that your body is "hiyang" to or responds to right away. Like Biogesic, for instance. I've trusted this medicine for as long as I can remember. The truth is, Biogesic has actually become a household name in my family. And it has never failed us. My OB-Gyn even prescribed it to me when I would have headache bouts during my pregnancies and while breastfeeding.

According to scientific journals, the paracetamol in Biogesic is the safest pain reliever there is. It has no harmful side effects. Unlike the new medicines that come out, which may cause allergies and stomach upset. I have taken Biogesic on an empty stomach and have not experienced any physical discomfort at all.



And how it works! I feel better in minutes. I don't know of a more effective headache reliever that does not have any stomach upset or side effect. My body tells me that it's the medicine that works best for me.

UST press to launch 20 books

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Publishing House, the country's oldest press, will launch more than 20 new titles on Sept. 7, 4 p.m., during the Philippine Bookfair at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Among the literary-critical titles to be launched are "Daigdig sa Pagitan" by Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, "Mga Lagot ng Liwanag" by Michael Coroza, "Sa Kagubatan ng Lungsod" by Abdon Balde Jr., "Asinta," a collaboration between poet-performance artist Vim Nadera and visual artist Pinggot Zulueta, "In Karakter" by Aurora Yumul, "The Arrogant Ape and the Wise Firefly" by Mirana Medina, "Mga Dula sa Magkakaibang Midyum" by Frank Rivera, "Lorenzo Ruiz, Escribano: A Contemporary Verse Drama" by Ophelia Dimalanta, and "Myths and Metaphor" by Neil Garcia.

Philosophical-theological titles to be released are "Teacher of His Own" by Jan Sareno, "Karunungan 2002" by the Philippine Academy of Philosophical Research, "Sinner's Journey to God" by Ben Espinosa, "Soaring Dreams" by Jose Zuniga, "Pagpapakatao" by Florentino Hornedo, "Bioethics 9" and "Emerging Theology 2," edited by Fausto Gomez, O.P., "Pilgrim's Way" by Belen Tangco, and "Just From the Heart" by Tamerlane Lana, O.P.

Historical titles to be launched include "Dominican Artists and Engineers" by Florentino Hornedo, "Pelikula at Pulitika," a biography of filmmaker Vicente Salumbides by Julianito Villasanta, and "History by Alcinas" by Lucio Gutierrez, O.P.

The launching will be at the function room of the Megatrade Hall, 5/F, SM Megamall. Call 731-3522 or 731-3101 local 8252/8278 for book reservations.

Specialty bookstore opens new branch

A NEW chapter in the PowerBooks story began recently with the opening of another branch of the specialty bookstore on the second floor of Tower Records in Glorietta 3.

At 142 sq m, it is the most compact of the four branches, but it will carry only the choicest titles in fiction and literature, business, art, world affairs, home and leisure, and more.

"PowerBooks Glorietta 3 is part of our plan of expanding and making our unique selection more available to our customers. We would like to offer the Glorietta mall-goers a venue to browse through a wider selection of books and offer them these titles with more reasonable prices," says Gabby Licauco, operations manager.

For customers who can't find a particular title, the PowerBooks special order service will be available at the new branch. Other services are book reservation, free delivery, gift certificates, institutional accounts, bridal and birthday registry, and the Powercard discount card and loyalty program.

PowerBooks opened its first branch in August 1996 on Arnaiz Avenue, Makati, behind New World Hotel. The SM Megamall branch opened two years later, followed by the one at the Corte de las Palmas in Alabang Town Center in February 2000.

PowerBooks changed the concept, look and ambience of a bookstore, making book shopping a thoroughly refreshing and stimulating experience. It has also encouraged reading by organizing various special events every month such as book launching and autograph signings by authors, free.talks and seminars on diverse topics, and promos and tie-ups with publishers and other companies. It also holds special events for children, such as storytelling sessions and art workshops.

Visit www.powerbooks.com.ph or call 844-4455.

POWERBOOKS

COMPACT interiors of PowerBooks Glorietta

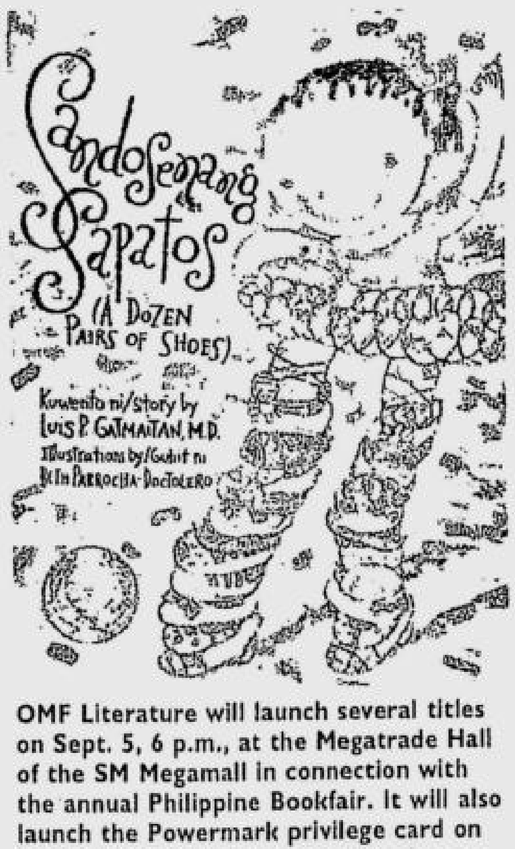
Jessica Zafra and Cory Quirino to sign books

ANVIL Publishing presents three of their best-selling Filipino authors in this year's Philippine Bookfair, ongoing until Sept. 8 at the Megatrade Hall B, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Two of them are columnists of the Philippine Daily Inquirer—Amando Doronila ("Analysis") and Cory Quirino ("Inside Out"). They will hold booksigning sessions on separate dates at the Anvil Publishing booth. Copies of the authors' books will be sold at special prices during these events.

Yesterday, award-winning journalist and well-respected political analyst, Doronila, signed copies of his twin books on former President Joseph Estrada, namely "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" and "Between Fires," of which he is author and editor, respectively.

Gen-X icon and award-winning writer Jessica Zafra will autograph copies of her latest book, "Twisted 6," on Sept. 6, 5:30 p.m. Copies of Flip Magazine (of which Zafra is editor in chief) will be given away to all buyers of "Twisted" books.

On Sept. 7, 3 p.m., popular TV host, civic leader and "wellness" advocate Cory Quirino will sign copies of her book, "Forever Young," a health and wellness guide for men and women alike.


Sandosenang Sapatos
(A Dozen Pairs of Shoes)
Kuwento ni/story by Luis P. Gatmaitan, M.D.
Illustrations by/Guhit ni Beth Parrocha-Doctolero

OMF Literature will launch several titles on Sept. 5, 6 p.m., at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall in connection with the annual Philippine Bookfair. It will also launch the Powermark privilege card on Sept. 6, 4:30 p.m., and the Pastor's Exclusive Launch, a discount card for pastors, today at 6 p.m. Above is "Sandosenang Sapatos," a children's book by Luis Gatmaitan.

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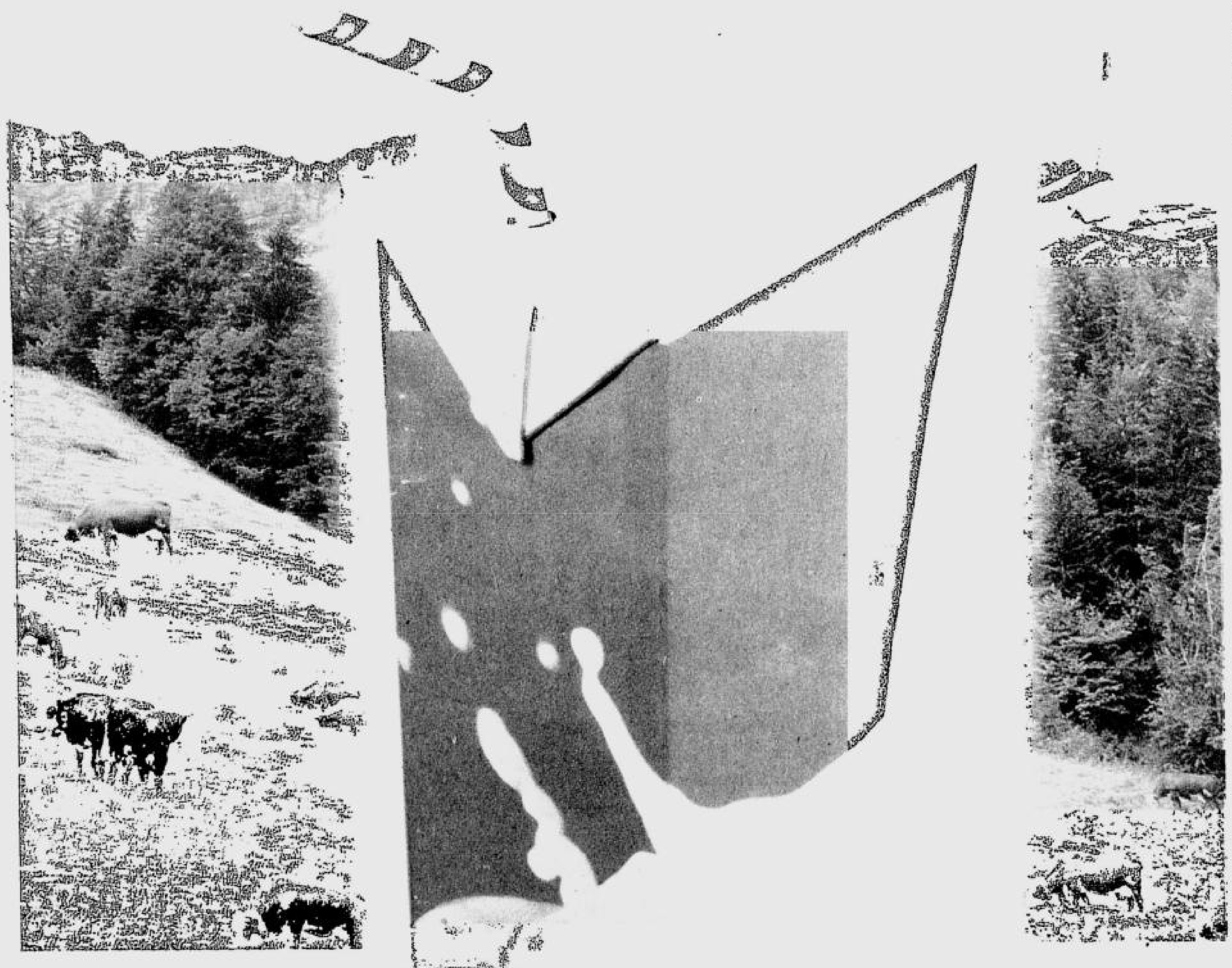

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